

Iran seeks OPEC quota increase

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran is seeking an increase in its Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota as it expands crude oil production capacity to an anticipated 4.5 million barrels per day by March, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday. Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh said in an interview that he had written the president of the OPEC conference, Youssef Omeir Ben Youssef of the United Arab Emirates, informing him of Iran's increased capacity and asking the quota to be reviewed, the oil industry newsletter said. Mr. Azadeh told MEES that Iran's crude oil production is currently 3.8 million barrels per day and will rise to about four million in a few weeks when a reconstructed production platform in the offshore Salween field comes on stream. Sustainable output is scheduled to rise to 4.5 million barrels daily by March, he said. Iran's present OPEC quota is 3,184 million barrels per day. "If there is an increase in demand, OPEC has to consider Iran's situation in the light of its new production capacity," Mr. Azadeh was quoted as saying. "That is what I have requested in my letter to OPEC."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

House rushes debate on draft law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Monday approved 20 articles of the 59-article draft law on press and publications and scheduled another meeting Tuesday to finalise discussions on the draft law. The approved articles were from 21 to 40. The House heard a Royal Decree adjourning the current extraordinary session of Aug. 26. The House members later turned their attention to the question of the resignation of Taffeh Deputy Fuad Khalafat in protest against the way the House had dealt with one of the corruption cases involving a multimillion road project and against the House's general performance. Some of the deputies demanded that the subject be postponed until the ordinary session expected in October while another group demanded an immediate decision. Finally the House decided to postpone discussion on the subject. The House speaker requested a House committee charged with dealing with protests contesting the by-elections to assume its task. Jordan Television said that side meetings among the various blocs and the government had helped to smooth the way for reaching an endorsement of all the 20 articles. In the draft law on press and publications.

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Jordan beats Moldova 1-0

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday beat Moldova 1-0 in the final match of Group A of the Jordan International Soccer Championship. Jiryes Tadros scored for Jordan in the final minutes of the match. With this win Jordan tops Group A standings followed by Moldova. In the final match of Group B, Congo drew 1-1 with the Algerian team Wifaf Steif. Iraq heads Group B followed by Congo. In the quarterfinal matches Wednesday Jordan will meet Congo while Iraq will clash with Moldova.

Intifada will continue despite peace talks — Arafat

MANAMA (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in remarks published on Monday the Palestinian uprising would continue despite Middle East peace talks. "The intifada will continue and we will continue peace negotiations ... because it is the other face of the Palestinians' right to exist," Mr. Arafat told Bahrain's daily Al-Khaleej in an interview in Tunis. Mr. Arafat said so far 2,000 people had been killed and 98,000 injured in the uprising. He said the move of former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the White House to help boost President George Bush's election campaign would affect the peace talks. "It will have an effect ... because there were personal promises from Baker to the Palestinians, and Baker, as a U.S. secretary of state, had been trying to be neutral."

Seven killed in Pakistan violence

ISLAMABAD (R) — Seven people were killed and 21 injured on Monday in violence between rival Muslim sects in the northern Pakistani town of Gilgit, a government minister said. Troops were called in to the remote town in the Pakistan-ruled part of Kashmir to prevent further violence between the majority Sunni and the minority Shiite sects, police in Gilgit said. Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas Minister Mehtab Ahmad Khan told parliament that Sunnis and Shiites fought gunbattles resulting in six people being killed and 20 wounded. This happened after unknown gunmen shot and killed a Shiite activist riding a motorcycle in Gilgit bazaar and injured his passenger, a police official said. Mr. Ahmad Khan, speaking in the national assembly, said security forces had arrested 20 people after the clashes.

Demirel vows to crush rebel Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel on Monday pledged once again to root out Turkey's Kurdish rebels after 31 people were killed in two days of separatist unrest. "We are trying to uproot them and render them ineffective where they are. These are armed men in the mountains killing police, civilians and soldiers," he told a news conference. The Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) is fighting for an independent state for Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds. Violence has intensified in the mainly Kurdish southeast since the Aug. 15 anniversary of the start of the PKK's eight-year-old guerrilla war. Security officials and the semi-official Anadolu news agency said a total of 31 people had been killed in the unrest on Sunday and Monday.

Swedish police drop probe against CIA defector

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish police dropped spy charges against former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employee Edward Lee Howard Monday, but kept him locked up because he lacked a residence permit. "The criminal charges were not substantiated and the probe has been closed," said Chief Prosecutor K.G. Svensson. He was referring to security police accusations that Mr. Howard had been preparing to spy for the Russian KGB in Sweden and had lied about past activities with the Soviet secret police.

New round of bilaterals begins in Washington

Israel poised to announce acceptance of Resolution 242 'in all aspects'

Combined agency despatches

ARABS AND ISRAELIS met in Washington Monday for the first round of Middle East peace talks since Israel's hardline Likud government was swept from power in June by a Labour Party which says it is committed to exchanging "land for peace."

This is the moment when the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese negotiators begin to discover how far the new government is ready to go to end a conflict that has caused five wars in 40 years.

"We will look forward to see whether the new frame of mind of peace will prove its worth," chief Lebanese delegate Soheil Shammas told reporters when he arrived at the U.S. State Department for the negotiations. The new head of Israel's team talking to Syria, Itamar Rabinovich, said: "We come here with a lot of goodwill and a lot of high hopes."

The Israelis are making clear they have brought new proposals for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and for a deal with Syria over the Golan Heights.

They made a flurry of minor "concessions" to the Palestinians in the hours before the talks, including cancelling expulsion orders issued against 11 Palestinians in January by the Likud government.

But the Arabs remain cautious. A partial freeze on Jewish settlement in the occupied territories by new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin fell short of their demands and they were dismayed by the speed with which the United States rewarded him with \$10 billion in loan guarantees to help the Israeli economy.

The head of the Palestinian delegation, Haidar Abdul Shafi, told reporters when he left the State Department after a brief procedural meeting on Monday that the grant of the loan guarantees was "not a step that is helpful to the peace process."

"Nevertheless, on the assurance of the American government that the Rabin government is going to come with positive suggestions for the peace process, we came as always with an open mind and with a solid commitment to the peace process ready to see what is going to be presented."

Arab diplomats expect the new

proposals to offer much greater self-rule than the scheme presented at the five previous rounds of talks that have taken place since a historic Middle East peace conference in Madrid last October.

They are certain not to meet Palestinian demands that their self-rule body should have full law-making powers.

But Nabil Shaath, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official advising the delegation, said the Palestinians were not softening their position for the sake of the New Israeli government.

"There is no climb-down. There are principles," he told Reuters from the hotel where he is following the talks. The PLO is officially excluded from the peace process because Israel considers it a "terrorist" organisation, although the pretense that they are not involved has worn ever thinner.

Palestinian sources said they expected the Israelis to propose elections for a Palestinian council in the occupied territories next March.

The Palestinians would consent

Israel cancels expulsion of 11, but will keep them in jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday cancelled expulsion orders against 11 Palestinians in a further effort by his government to bolster the peace talks opening in Washington.

It followed an announcement Sunday that 800 Palestinian prisoners would be freed. Arab access from the occupied territories to Israel would be eased, and some punishments imposed for anti-Israeli resistance would be lifted.

The expulsion orders were issued by the previous government of Yitzhak Shamir last January on the eve of a peace talks session. By reversing them on the day his government made its debut in the talks, Mr. Rabin apparently was trying to signal a radical change of approach.

The 11 West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians had been ordered out for allegedly fomenting the violence that had killed four Israelis in the preceding three months. Their appeals are now before the Israeli supreme

court. A statement by Mr. Rabin in his capacity as defence minister said that circumstances had changed since the expulsion orders were issued, before his election June 23.

He apparently was referring to the decline of anti-Israeli violence in the occupied territories, and the divisions between Palestinian supporters and opponents of the U.S.-brokered peace process.

Israel has expelled 66 Palestinians since the uprising began in 1987. Only one Arab has successfully appealed against expulsion since 1979.

The defence ministry said the cancellation of the orders did not mean Israel had abolished expulsions, which have been condemned as a violation of international law.

The moves by Mr. Rabin, coupled with reports that Israel was preparing for "territorial compromise" with Syria, were timed to achieve maximum effect in Washington where Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and Lebanese began talks for the first

time with Labour's centre-left coalition government. The Arabs had held five rounds of largely fruitless talks since October with the Likud government of Mr. Shamir.

Palestinians called Labour's gestures modest but said they were a step in the right direction. Mr. Shamir said the Arabs did not deserve "concessions."

Mr. Rabin, who vowed to speed up the talks after toppling Mr. Shamir in June elections was reported by Israel's biggest newspaper on Monday to be ready to withdraw from parts of the Golan Heights in return for a Syrian peace treaty.

Israeli officials declined comment on the Yedioth Ahronoth report which said: "Itamar Rabinovich, chief negotiator with the Syrians, has been authorised by the prime minister to announce today that Israel accepts United Nations Resolution 242 in all its aspects."

The resolution calls for Israel to withdraw from the territories

Hekmatyar urges 'final blow' as fighting continues

KABUL (Agencies) — An Afghan rebel chief issued a call on Monday for a holy war to strike a final blow against former communist militia in Kabul after French and Italian diplomats fled a hail of indiscriminate rocket fire on the battered city.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, fundamentalist leader of the dissenting Hezb-e-Islami party urged "every Mujahid individual affiliated with any jihad (holy war) party to unite ... to give the final decisive blow to the remnants of communism," his Afghan News Agency (ANA) reported.

Diplomats said Mr. Hekmatyar's latest rallying cry appeared to be a sign of desperation rather than strength after earlier such calls failed to arouse a significant show of support.

A new hail of rocket and artillery fire rocked the shattered Afghan capital early on Monday, after a night of intense exchanges of fire between Hezb rebels and troops loyal to the Mujahideen government.

Mr. Hekmatyar began his blistering assault two weeks ago to back a demand for disbandment of the powerful militia. The militia switched allegiance from the former communist rul-

ers to the Mujahideen in April, allowing transfer of power to the Islamic government.

Mr. Hekmatyar last week threatened his "final option" unless the Uzbek militia pull out within seven days.

The fierce rocketing overnight killed at least 20 people, swelling a death toll that has reached 1,800 in just two weeks.

More than 120,000 of Kabul's 1.5 million residents have fled, and children in makeshift refugee camps are reported dying of disease.

Islamic government forces halted an offensive against Hezb rebels and were consolidating positions atop a strategic hill in the south of the capital, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

"Now we have stopped moving forward," he said. "We will see what the other side is doing."

The last six French diplomats in Kabul, plus five Italians and three Bulgarians including the ambassador who was slightly hurt by shrapnel when a rocket hit the Bulgarian embassy, fled Kabul before dawn amid intense fire between the Hezb and government troops (see page 2).

Meanwhile, the ousted president, Najibullah, awaits his fate. He spends his days watching

television, pacing his floors, and talking by satellite telephone with his wife and children. Outside in the rutted streets, people revile him and call for his blood.

Since his ouster four months ago, Afghanistan's fallen President Najibullah has been holed up behind the three-metre walls of a United Nations compound, only a few hundred metres from his former bunker-like home.

Now the Islamic government that toppled Mr. Najibullah in April is calling for him to be handed over to stand trial for war crimes. With the last foreign U.N. staff gone from the capital, little may stand between him and Islamic justice.

A United Nations official said Afghanistan's government is bound by a 1947 convention that protects the U.N. premises from being overrun. But with anarchy reigning in Kabul as heavily armed rebel factions battle among themselves, it was difficult to say whether that diplomatic provisions would be respected.

The U.N. compound was once the home of another president, Mohammad Daoud, whose fate served as an ominous reminder for Mr. Najibullah. Mr. Daoud was overthrown like Mr. Najibullah — and executed.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday holds talks with Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Eduardo Faleiro (centre) in a meeting attended by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber (see page 3)

Arab concern forces allies to delay Iraq 'no-fly' zone plan

Combined agency despatches

WESTERN PLANS to set up a "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq have been delayed because of widespread Arab concern it could lead to the country's dismemberment, Gulf-based officials and diplomats said Monday.

More time was needed for the Gulf war allies to consult among themselves and for the chief players in the scheme — the United States, Britain and France — to reassure Arab states they had no intentions of partitioning Iraq, they said.

"The main thing is there has to be an overall strategy by other countries in the area regional support is crucial," said one senior Gulf official who wished to remain anonymous.

U.S. officials had previously indicated the allied air umbrella for the proposed "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq, could have been set up as early as Tuesday.

"Things are not moving as quickly as we expected. Privately, the governments concerned are supporting the idea but practical details have still to be worked

out," one Western diplomat said. So far Kuwait is the only Arab state to openly declare its support for the Western plans.

Its newspapers on Monday fronted a cabinet statement saying Kuwait welcomed efforts to protect Iraqis from the "brutal actions" of the ruling regime in Baghdad and hoped they would ensure Iraq's compliance with U.N. ceasefire resolutions.

Syria — which joined the U.S.-led coalition which drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait last year — has rejected the air exclusion zone as an effort "aimed at partitioning Iraq and harming the unity of its people and lands."

Jordan, Libya, Turkey, Yemen, and Algeria have also denounced the plan.

Gulf diplomats say there is no serious obstacle but Western allies want more time to win unequivocal support from Egypt and Kuwait's allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Egypt and most GCC states have avoided commenting directly on the air exclusion zone but

their newspapers have loudly proclaimed support of Iraq's territorial integrity.

Diplomats say despite their strong opposition to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the GCC wants Iraq to remain intact to balance the growing military and political muscle of revolutionary Iran.

There is also widespread concern Iraq could split into separate Kurdish, Sunni Muslim and Shi'ite Muslim states, creating warring mini-states.

It is expected that U.S. warplanes from two aircraft carriers in the region would help mount 24-hour patrols of the exclusion area but jets pledged by Britain and France would have to be based in neighbouring states like Bahrain, or Saudi Arabia.

A team of U.S. air warfare specialists arrived in Riyadh last week to coordinate "military-to-military cooperation" between air forces in the area, a U.S. military spokesman said.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said on Sunday President George Bush was likely to

King to leave hospital soon

Combined agency despatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein is recuperating well after surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and is expected to leave hospital in a few days, according to Chief of Protocol Mohammad Al Adwan.

Mr. Adwan, quoting the King's personal physician, Dr. Samir Farraj, said the King was "recovering very well" and is expected to be out of the hospital in a few days.

Mr. Adwan said cancerous cells were found in the tissue removed during surgery at the Mayo Clinic, but its spread was contained.

"I believe the doctors said 'yes' (it was malignant), but in the very early stages," said Mr. Adwan. "It was contained totally and it had not spread anywhere else."

A statement from the Royal Palace quoted Dr. Farraj as saying that the surgery found

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Delegation leaves for U.S. today

A HIGH-LEVEL Jordanian delegation is due to leave today for the United States to express their good wishes to the King for a speedy recovery.

According to a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the delegation will be led by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and will include Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thawqan Al Hindawi, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamini, Upper House of Parliament members Mohammad Kilani and Barjass Hadid as well as Lower House members Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben, Fawzi Tmeineh, Abdul Rahim Ekour and Faris Nabulsi and Khaled Samhour, the speaker's secretary.

Egypt adopts iron-fist policy on militants

CAIRO (R) — The killing by Egyptian police of seven Muslim militants holed up in an apartment shows the state is ready to use an iron fist against militants, diplomats say.

The seven members of the Islamic Group, which seeks to overthrow Egypt's government by force, were shot dead in the town of Mangabab on Saturday night and were buried Sunday night under tight security.

Algeria's experience of fundamentalist-linked violence has rung alarm bells with other secular Arab governments like Egypt, which seems increasingly ready to follow the Algerian government's example and clamp down on Muslim militants by force.

A month-long amnesty for Muslim militants to give themselves up ended last week, and diplomats say Egyptian authorities, having failed with dialogue, may now try iron-fist policing.

"It's reasonable to think we'll see more of this... the government is declaring open field on terrorists and the government says who the terrorists are," one Western diplomat said.

A local politician in Assiut, scene of most of the 50 killings linked to fundamentalist violence since March, said the latest attempt to talk local militants into giving up their weapons stalled about two weeks ago.

A senior member of the ruling National Party in Assiut told Reuters the militants had interpreted as a sign of weakness

Parliament speaker quits saying Hizbollah cheated in Baalbek polls

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Dealing a blow to Lebanon's first general election in 20 years, pro-Syrian Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini resigned on Monday, accusing his political opponents of vote-rigging.

"I present to your council (parliament) my resignation as speaker and member hoping you would accept it," Mr. Husseini told a news conference.

Earlier, the Shiite Muslim speaker urged the government to scrap Sunday's polls in his east Lebanon district after the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) took a commanding lead.

Mr. Husseini accused the group of rigging votes. Interior Minister Sami Al Khatib dismissed a request that counting be suspended in the Bekaa Valley's Baalbek district where Mr. Husseini, a traditional leader in the largely Shiite area, headed a list of 10 pro-Syrian candidates.

The Christian Voice of Lebanon radio station said the speaker's decision was a "political bomb" that would further embarrass the Syrian-backed government after many Lebanese Christians boycotted the polls.

Mr. Husseini told the independent Al Nahar newspaper he had asked Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Rashid Solh to call an emergency cabinet session to scrap the Baalbek vote.

He said he would call the outgoing parliament into session if the government of President Elias Hrawi did not scrap the polls. Mr. Solh said the cabinet would meet on Tuesday in ordinary session to discuss the election.

Elections in Beirut and the central mountains were scheduled for Aug. 30 and in South Lebanon for Sept. 6. The elections were carried out



Hussein Husseini

douni added without further elaboration.

It is not clear whether Mr. Husseini's resignation will influence the remaining rounds of elections.

Pro-Syrian candidates were leading in most northern and eastern areas. Initial figures in Baalbek, a Hizbollah stronghold, showed fundamentalist candidates well ahead of Mr. Husseini and his supporters, official sources said.

In the Christian city of Zahle, official results showed that Mr. Hrawi's son Roy and a government minister close to the president were defeated in the polls.

The prime minister said the results of the first round of voting, which should be announced later on Monday indicated the governments' neutrality.

The election has touched off the worst factional rift since the 1975-90 civil war.

Heavy voter turnout in Baalbek on Sunday reflected a tough contest. Hizbollah and Husseini supporters accused each others of stuffing ballot boxes and forging identity cards.

"These are not elections. They are a struggle in a jungle of weapons, chaos, and maladministration," said Christian Deputy Albert Mansour, an ally of Mr. Husseini.

Sunni Muslim political leader Tammam Salam described the polls as a "joke" and said the electoral law was tailored to fit the personal interests of some candidates.

The election was also marred by shooting in which a Lebanese army soldier and a civilian gunman were killed.

The interior minister said turnout was as low as 15 per cent in some Christian areas and as high

(Continued on page 5)

French and Italian envoys flee Kabul amid heavy fire

KABUL (R) — French and Italian diplomats and the injured Bulgarian ambassador fled Kabul before dawn on Monday, and the Red Cross handed over responsibility for its hospital to the Health Ministry, saying warring factions did not respect its premises.

The diplomats braved a night of intense exchanges of fire between the dissident Hezb-e-Islami party and troops loyal to the Mujahideen government to drive out, apparently abandoning hope of a promised ceasefire to allow embassy staff to leave.

A new hail of rocket and artillery fire rocked the shattered Afghan capital early on Monday, but the government said it had halted an offensive against its fundamentalist rivals.

The fleeing group comprised six French diplomats, five Italians and three Bulgarians, including the ambassador who was slightly hurt by shrapnel when a rocket hit the embassy on Sunday.

The convoy headed north on the main highway to Termez on the Uzbekistan border, 350 kilometres northeast of Kabul, an official at the French embassy in Islamabad said. An Afghan government plane had been sent to pick them up.

It was unclear how many diplomats remained in Kabul, but more than 100 Russian embassy staff and their families are known to want to leave but are awaiting stronger guarantees of their safe passage. Three staff have been killed by rockets.

They were reluctant to go north or take the road east to Pakistan near Hezb strongholds — the route where Afghan warriors slaughtered 16,000 British forces retreating from Kabul in 1841, leaving one survivor — without a firm ceasefire.

Relentless Hezb rocket fire has closed Kabul airport since early this month.

The International Committee of

the Red Cross (ICRC) handed overall responsibility for its surgical hospital to the Health Ministry on Monday but would keep 21 international staff in the city, ICRC chief Armin Eric Kobel said.

"It was impossible to get respect for our premises from the different parties and because of the political situation we have had to adapt our activities," he said.

The Red Cross hospital was damaged and all its medical supplies were destroyed when a rocket slammed into its orthopaedic unit. New supplies arrived by convoy last week.

A group of 12 Red Cross staff reached Pakistan on Monday but Mr. Kobel said the ICRC would maintain a presence. All 17 hospitals in Kabul have been hit.

Intense rocketing overnight and into the morning killed at least 20 people, swelling a death toll that has reached 1,800 in just two weeks.

More than 120,000 residents have fled Kabul, and children in makeshift refugee camps are reported dying of disease.

Two French embassy local staff were killed and two hurt by a rocket in front of the embassy. The residence of the Pakistani ambassador was hit, injuring two people.

Incoming fire also hit a grain silo, igniting a huge fire, the Mujahideen Afghan Press reported.

Troops of the Islamic government were consolidating positions on a strategic hilltop under heavy attack from the fundamentalist Hezb, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

"Now we have stopped moving forward," he said. "We will see what the other side is doing."

Prospects were bleak for evacuation of the Russians after the government warned that Hezb leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar could not be trusted to observe even a temporary ceasefire.

Hezb has agreed to an evacuation of diplomats on the condition its men held by the government are also allowed to leave.

Mr. Hekmatyar has outlined an ultimatum for a ceasefire, threatening to launch his "final option" against Kabul unless the former communist Uzbek militia pull out within one week.

He launched his assault two weeks ago to back his demand for the withdrawal, disbandment and disarmament of the militia.

The powerful militia switched allegiance from ex-communist President Najibullah to the Mujahideen in April, allowing the transfer of power to the Islamic government. Mr. Hekmatyar brands them traitors.

The government on Sunday asked the United Nations to hand Mr. Najibullah into its custody after the last three U.N. staff pulled out.

The deposed president has been sheltering in the U.N. compound since his own military forces denied him permission to fly out after a palace coup on April 16.

Israeli officer removed from post

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel Military Industries (IMI) removed its chief safety director from his post following an explosion at IMI's Nof Yam munitions factory last month, a company press release said Monday. The security director of the factory also was removed, the release said. An explosion at the factory outside Tel Aviv in July killed two people, injured 40 others, and damaged homes and shattered windows for kilometres along the crowded coast.



CHESSE TOURNAMENT: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, president of the Jordan Chess Federation, Monday presents prizes to winners of the Prince Mohammad Open Chess Tournament, which was held at the University of Jordan. A total of 131 players participated in the event which lasted for five days (Petra photo)

Umbrella 'guns' seized with Algerian extremists

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian gendarmes have arrested eight Muslim fundamentalists who made their own "umbrella guns" and were using old wartime shells and grenades to manufacture homemade bombs, Algerian media said.

"The group made its own arms including some concealed in umbrellas and destined for 'special operations,'" the independent Al Watan newspaper said on Monday, citing state television.

The men were arrested in Bechar region, some 750 kilometres southwest of Algiers, the newspaper said. It did not say when they were held.

Algerian television late on Sunday showed the guns and publications of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) which the gendarmes said were seized when the men were detained.

Some 4,000 Muslim fundamentalists, rounded up in the Algeria during unrest early this year, are still living in Sahara Desert internment camps in "difficult" conditions, a human rights leader said on Sunday.

Abdoul Kazzak, head of Algeria's human rights monitoring group, said the men were detained in seven camps which he hoped would be closed at the latest by the end of October.

"Conditions of detention are difficult," he said, but added there was no proof of men suffering attacks on "their dignity."

Algeria opened the desert camps last February under a state of emergency after widespread Muslim fundamentalist unrest followed cancellation of an election the now-banned FIS was set to win.

Starving villagers flock to Somali airlift town

HODDUR, Somalia (R) — The new arrivals squat round low campfires, cooking strips of half-rotten camel skin. An old man cradles a bleached cow skull, which he will boil for a ninth time to try to bleed some goodness from the bare bones.

It was all they had to eat.

Hundreds of starving villagers have dragged themselves into Hoddur since word spread last week that United Nations relief supplies had started to arrive in this isolated Somali town, 300 kilometres northwest of the capital Mogadishu.

"These people come from remote areas. Many more are coming every day," said Ibrahim Yellaho, a Somali doctor who has just come to Hoddur for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP), expanding its airlift to more and more centres in the parched and war-ravaged Horn of Africa country, made its first relief flight to Hoddur last Friday with 17 tonnes of high-protein biscuits.

By Sunday, when it flew in two loads of special porridge called Unimix, the population of the tiny town had swollen and scores more were arriving every day from the hinterland.

The newest arrivals sit in exhausted groups on the fringes of town, the silence broken by low murmurs, coughing and the wailing of children. The weakest, unable even to cry, stare blankly ahead with drooping eyelids.

"These are the lucky ones, the marathons," Dr. Yellaho said. "Many more have died on the road, or here in the streets."

The people of Hoddur, a cluster of crumbling concrete buildings and thatched huts amid vast stretches of empty scrub, still have some resources to survive on, and they are rallying round to help the villagers.

With little outside help except one WFP delivery of food by truck a few months ago, they have set up seven feeding centres and hope to start more.

Unimix flour unloaded in sacks from the plane was boiled in huge drums of water over open fires. Each child — and some of the weakest adults — received a half-litre ration in any available container from tin cans to foil biscuit packs.

Local leaders said 25 to 30 people were dying in the town every day before the first airlift came.

The death rate had dropped since then, they said, not because there was suddenly enough food but because morale rose and people felt they could use their very last stocks knowing more was on its way.

Relief workers said the level of organisation and local solidarity was unusual and looked promising.

The area has been blessed by relative peace compared with other parts of Somalia, where rival clans who united to topple dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991 have turned vicious on each other.

It has not yet seen any of the looting common elsewhere, where armed gangs have seized up to half the food coming in — although relief workers fear the gangs may appear in Hoddur when they realise there are pickings to be had.

The main thrust for relief agencies at the moment, apart from getting food into Hoddur, is to try to stem the influx of villagers by distributing supplies more widely by road.

Not only would this cut the distance villagers must walk, but it would keep them near their homes so they can plant fields or rear new livestock when the rains do come.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait, UAE officials hold military talks

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) held joint military talks on Monday with Kuwait, the only Arab state so far to declare its support for a Western plan to set up a "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq. The emirates news agency said Kuwait's army chief of staff, Major General Jaber Khalid Al Sabah, met in Abu Dhabi with UAE Air Force Major General Sheikh Mohammad Ben Zayed Al Nahayan. "They exchanged news about military topics which are of mutual concern to both sides," the agency said. Kuwait recently signed a defence agreement with France and has similar agreements with Britain and the United States. All three countries are preparing to set up an air exclusion zone over southern Iraq. President George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major sent UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan letters dealing with Gulf developments, the agency said on Sunday. The Western allies, trying to muster support for their plan from their Gulf Arab counterparts, have dismissed Iraqi suggestions that they want to partition Iraq. The UAE was among the more than 20 countries in a U.S.-led coalition which ejected Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991. Sheikh Jaber later flew to Qatar and then Bahrain on Monday on the next legs of a Gulf tour, the Gulf News Agency said. It gave no details on his mission, but said he also visited Oman.

Pakistan vows to stop camel-kid trade

QUETTA, Pakistan (R) — The chief minister of Pakistan's Baluchistan province has vowed to fight racketeers smuggling children to the Gulf as camel jockeys, local newspapers Taj Mohammad Jamali made the pledge in the provincial parliament on Saturday when some deputies said the province's Mekran coast on the Arabian Sea had become a major centre for smuggling children to Gulf states for use in camel races. Camel-keepers say the shrieks of a frightened child tied to a camel's back make the animal run faster. "Poverty is driving the society towards an unbelievable destination where the real fathers are compelled to sell their minor children for a few rupees," Mr. Jamali said. In one incident police recovered a child sold by his father, but the father was unwilling to take back his son because the "gangsters" asked for their money back, he said. Provincial Deputy Abdul Malik said the racket was operating in all four of Pakistan's provinces. "These children are brought to the Mekran coast in buses and then are smuggled to Gulf states," Mr. Malik said.

Bahrain, UAE to open embassies

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain and United Arab Emirates (UAE) will open embassies in Manama and Abu Dhabi, an official source at Bahrain's Foreign Ministry has said. "The step was taken to enhance the distinguished relations between the two countries' peoples as well as bilateral coordination and cooperation in various fields," the Gulf News Agency quoted the source as saying. Bahrain and the UAE are linked in the six-nation economic and political alliance — Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — which also groups Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and Qatar. All GCC States will now have embassies in Bahrain except neighbouring Qatar which is locked in a territorial dispute with the island. Diplomats said Bahrain was expected to open an embassy in Doha in the near future.

Wife pleads for Briton's release from Iraq

LONDON (AP) — A British woman whose husband has been sentenced to prison in Iraq said Monday that she believes he could not be forced to serve a full seven-year sentence. Will "I don't think that they will keep him for as long as they say. I just think the pressure on (Iraq) to release him will be too great," Julie Ride told a news conference in London. "It has happened before and I hope that it will happen again," she said, referring to a number of Britons who were detained and then released following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Her husband Paul, who was working as a caterer in Kuwait, disappeared on June 28. The Foreign Office said last week that he had been sentenced to prison for illegally entering the country. "The shock has more or less gone off and now it is just a question of keeping the pressure up to get him back home," she said.

Iran to expand links with Nakhichevan

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will build a gas pipeline to Nakhichevan and step up economic cooperation with the Armenian-blockaded enclave, Tehran Radio reported Monday. It said Geidar Aliyev, president of Nakhichevan, which borders Iran and Turkey and is separated from the main part of Azerbaijan by Armenia, signed two protocols at the end of a three-day visit to Tehran. "These two protocols will help the people of Nakhichevan emerge from the difficult crisis they are facing," the radio quoted Mr. Aliyev as saying. Armenians, who have been fighting with Azeris over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, block Nakhichevan's main supply routes from Azerbaijan. On Sunday, Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgadzah met Mr. Aliyev and said Iran would give priority to his request for natural gas, petrol and fuel oil supplies, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said.

Shells explode near U.N. mercy plane

NAIROBI (R) — The U.N. halted mercy flights to the besieged southern Sudanese capital of Juba for a day on Monday after two rebel shells landed near a plane shuttling food to thousands of hungry civilians there, officials said. World Food Programme (WFP) spokesman Paul Mitchell said the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) fired two shells that exploded about 50 metres from a U.N. chartered Aeroflot Il-76 cargo plane as it unloaded food on Sunday. "There were no flights today, but we will resume on Tuesday if the government assures us the runway is clear of debris," said Mr. Mitchell. The SPLA, which last week said it would not guarantee safe passage for U.N. flights into Juba, described "Nobody shot at the plane but there is heavy fighting around the airport," Elijah Malik, chief of the SPLA's relief wing, told Reuters in Nairobi. Nobody was hurt in the incident. The SPLA said it could not guarantee safe passage after a Russian plane illegally carrying U.N. markings was shot down by government troops into the city last month. The United Nations resumed flights on Friday in a bid to save 300,000 civilians from starvation seven flights so far. The U.N. said it needed to ferry in at least 800 tonnes to save the civilians from starvation.

Children die of disease in Afghan refugee camps

By Ahmad Masoud
Reuters

SARABI, Afghanistan — Afghan children are dying of disease in rudimentary refugee camps filled with thousands of people fleeing battles in their battered capital, where many have left behind family they may never see again.

The Baghi Raies, a once elegant garden of fruit trees and roses designed by ex-kings of Afghanistan, has been transformed into a huddle of ragged, makeshift tents and shelters for about 2,500 Kabul residents, many of them women and children.

"Most of the two- to four-year-old children are suffering from sunstroke, diarrhoea and pneumonia," said the camp's self-appointed security commander, Gul Rahman, 32, a fighter from the dissident Hezb-e-Islami Mujahideen group.

"So far seven children have lost their lives and there are no doctors and medicines to treat them," he said.

U.N. officials have warned of disease, particularly meningitis, breaking out among the tens of thousands of people leaving Kabul. The city has for two weeks been the battlefield for a bloody confrontation between the Islamic fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and troops of the Mujahideen coalition government.

"My daughter was two-years-old and for the last 15

days she had been suffering from diarrhoea but there was no medicine for her," said Sher Aga, 32. "Finally she took her last breath and left us to grieve."

"I have two daughters. One of them is suffering from pneumonia and the other has stomach problems," said Khan Mohammad, 39, a soldier under the former communist government. "But there is not a single tablet in the whole camp."

More than 1,800 people have been killed, mostly women and children, and several thousands injured in the Kabul fighting. More than 120,000 have fled into the provinces or across the border into Pakistan, the United Nations said on Sunday.

The United Nations announced a \$10 million emergency package for "urgent humanitarian needs," including \$4 million for transport of food aid and \$2 million for medical supplies and supplementary feeding.

A few of the families in Baghi Raies in the town of Sarobi, 50 kilometres east of Kabul, have tents but most live on mats under the towering pine trees that line the nearby Nahr-e River or in tiny hovels made together from scraps of wood.

There are no toilet facilities, which Gul Rahman described as one of the most serious problems in the camp.

An estimated 500 families

had taken refuge in Baghi Raies in just 18 days, Gul Rahman said. More arrive daily.

Mr. Hekmatyar and a Hezb splinter faction led by the veteran Younis Khalis have distributed 180 kilograms of flour and 18 kilograms of oil to every 17 families in the camp, Gul Rahman said.

Some families who left behind menfolk in Kabul fear they may never hear from them again.

The children, wife and mother of 47-year-old Ali Mohammad from Qalacha on Kabul's outskirts were waiting for him, said a neighbour, Mohammad Koman, 35. He was killed when a cannon round sliced him in half last week, Mr. Koman said.

Qalacha's 5,000 families had fled the village, leaving no one to bury his remains, Mr. Koman said. "Finally his cousin, along with one of his friends, was informed and he then buried Ali."

In Kabul, more than a dozen unidentified people were buried in unmarked graves after a single rocket attack in a city market killed at least 87 people, hospital staff said. Their families would probably never know their fate, they said.

"We left our home and my father and three brothers were going to take our furniture and follow us," said 15-year-old Zeig. "But we have heard nothing for three days."

Israel to spend \$8.5b on infrastructure

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's new government, keen to create jobs and boost the economy, plans to spend \$8.5 billion modernising its infrastructure over the next three years, treasury officials said on Sunday.

The plan would be part of a budget that would include cuts in spending on defence and in taxation, the officials added.

The money would be spent on building highways, water and sewerage systems, electricity, telecommunications, airports, education, industrial parks and tourism, they said.

"This is a plan on an international scale," said David Brodet, head of the treasury's budget department. "This is a breakthrough for the Israeli economy that will bring it in the mid-1990s to the level of the most modern economies in the world."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's centre-left government was elected last June on a platform of "changing national priorities" after 15 years of rightist Likud governments.

Mr. Brodet said the investment plan was part of the new policy and would appear in the 1993 budget which will be presented on Sept. 6.

The money would be set aside in the state budgets for the period 1993-1995.

Aharon Fogel, director-general of the Finance Ministry, said a precondition to implementing the plan in 1993 was cutting budgets in areas which "do not contribute to creating jobs."

He said the treasury was going to propose a plan to restructure Israel's defence industry with a view to cutting spending.

Mr. Brodet said the new budget would include a reduction in taxes on Israeli citizens but declined to give details.

Earlier this month Mr. Rabin secured President George Bush's backing for U.S. guarantees for \$10 billion worth of loans for the absorption of hundreds of thousands of new immigrants, mostly from the former Soviet Union.

Israel said it was going to spend some of the money on infrastructure. Government corporations and private business would also invest in the project, officials said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ... Santa Vision

18:30 ... Marc et Sophie

19:00 ... News in French

19:15 ... Le Cirque

19:30 ... News in Hebrew

20:00 ... News in Arabic

20:30 ... Aeropolis Now

21:00 ... Mr. Bean

21:30 ... Tocc

22:00 ... News in English

22:30 ... Feature Film: "Little Nisha"

PRAYER TIMES

04:27 ... Fajr

06:00 ... (Sunrise) Doha

12:37 ... Dhuhr

19:17 ... Asr

19:37 ... Maghrib

20:39 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swallah, Tel. 610740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

SEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

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Dr. Bassam Karadabeh 706200

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Dr. Saad Abu Harab 649846

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Committee seeks help to finance cancer centre 1214 new cases registered

AMMAN (J.T.) — A National Jordanian committee entrusted with setting up a cancer centre in Jordan Monday warned that the number of cancer cases in the country is increasing each year and appealed for efforts at the national level to help deal with the situation.

The number of new cancer cases registered in 1991 was 1214, and should the trend continue, there will be an increase of up to 70 cancer cases in Jordan for every 100,000 inhabitants by the end of the century," Dr. Samir Kayed, the committee's rapporteur, said.

Addressing a press conference organised by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and the national committee, Dr. Kayed said that between 1980 and 1991, a total of 7442 cancer patients received treatment at the new Nuclear Centre for Cancer Diseases at Al Bashir Hospital.

Dr. Kayed, who is also director of the Al Bashir Hospital, said that the hospital offers daily treatment to around 240 patients.

GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib said that work was continuing on the Al Amal Cancer Centre which is expected to become operational by the end of 1993.

The infrastructure of the project, located near the Jordan University Hospital, is almost complete and efforts are being made to install equipment, Dr. Khatib said. He told the press conference that the total cost of the building plus the equipment and facilities will reach JD 14 million.

The centre will include an outpatient clinic for radiation treatment, an operation room, a computerised axon tomography scan room, an X-ray room for breast examinations, an ultrasound examination room, offices for specialists, laboratories and other facilities, according to Dr. Khatib.

To gather support from the public and to raise contributions for this project, he said, GUVS and the national committee are planning a solidarity week with cancer patients in October.

Dr. Khatib said that activities include door-to-door collection of donations by thousands of students around the country in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The students will also distribute leaflets to warn the public against environmental pollution and cancer, he added.

During the week of activities, voluntary societies, clubs and social organisations will carry out various activities in the provinces to raise donations while a special committee has been charged with contacting banks and financial institutions to raise contributions for the project, said Dr. Khatib.

He said that Jordan Television will present a programme on the last day of the week of activities featuring the various aspects of the campaign.

The activities will also include a march which will kick off from the Amal Cancer Centre at the University of Jordan and will cover surrounding areas in a bid to raise donations for the project.

Dr. Khatib said that a previous march raised JD 3 million to help finance the project.

A soccer match at Al Hussein Youth City will also be organised to raise contributions for the project, Dr. Khatib added.

Dr. Khatib said that the technical committee has prepared a programme for training the centre's cadres.

Her Majesty Queen Noor was reported last month to be seeking help from international organisations to equip the centre and train its personnel.

Jordan, India agree to boost coordination, maintain institutionalised dialogue

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — India and Jordan Monday agreed to seek better coordination on issues of common concern and to institutionalise regular dialogue on all levels to further strengthen bilateral relations, officials said.

India also responded positively to a proposal by His Majesty King Hussein towards achieving stability and security in the Middle East and expressed willingness to contribute in whatever possible manner towards advancing the quest for peace in the region "on the basis of justice and logic."

Mr. Faleiro said that his country could play a significant role in the multilateral phase of negotiations involving Arab states, Israel as well as the U.S., Russia and the European Community (EC) on regional issues such as the environment, disarmament, water resources and economic cooperation.

Reiterating the position of India in support for the Arab causes, Mr. Faleiro said that any settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict should be based on the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland in their own territory and the security and stability of all countries in the region, including Israel.

Mr. Faleiro pointed out that India has always supported efforts to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for an Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war. He expressed hope the ongoing negotiations would succeed in achieving this objective.

India was among the first countries to recognise the state of Palestine proclaimed in November 1988. It established diplomatic relations with Israel in January this year.

Mr. Faleiro's talks here also focused on the Non-Aligned Movement summit, scheduled to be held in Indonesia next month. The Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem are among the major topics that have always topped the NAM agenda for years, and the Bandung summit would review the course of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

During their talks, the Jordanian leaders "emphasised the need to revitalise the movement in a manner that would ensure that the new world order would be a just world order" and "democratic world order," Mr. Faleiro told the Jordan Times.

"Basically what Jordan is keen to have is fairness in all international relations and dealings in any world order," he said. "We share this view," he added.

Mr. Faleiro, who left for home Monday evening, said Sharif Zeid and Dr. Abu Jaber accepted invitations to visit India, but no date was set.

According to sources close to the talks, Jordan told India that it was keenly observing the moves of the new Israeli government led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, hoping that the euphoria created by the election victory of Israeli Labour was not ill-founded and that Mr. Rabin would live up to his public promises and pledges.

Mr. Rabin, who ousted hard-line Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir in June elections, says he has given priority to reaching a peace settlement with the Arabs and adopted a series of measures described as "confidence-building."

"Jordan believes that the euphoria generated by Rabin's election should not be ill-founded," said one source. "A case in point is South Africa, where the release of (black nationalist leader Nelson) Mandela and the reform course launched by (president F.W.) de Klerk sparked a high sense of optimism, only to be set back with massacres and a deadlock in dialogue. Jordan hopes that this will not be the case in the Middle East...."

The first test of Israeli intentions comes in Washington this week during the sixth round of bilateral negotiations — the first session of peace talks after the change in Israeli government, the source said.

While Jordan agrees that the negotiations could be long and protracted, it also believes that "things could get difficult unless something concrete emerges in a fairly reasonable time," according to the source.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday receives Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Eduardo Faleiro in the presence of Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber (left).

Arab airlines discuss joint cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The unification of European nations and its impact on Arab countries airlines and air transport operations topped the agenda of a meeting of the commercial committee of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO), which opened in Amman Monday.

A total of 12 Arab airlines, including Royal Jordanian (RJ), are taking part in the meeting, which will also tackle the question of promoting cooperation among Arab airlines.

Mr. Akel Biltaji, RJ vice president, said the meeting will focus attention on the challenge facing Arab airlines in light of the formation of various international blocs.

Reactivating the Arab Civil Aviation Council, which was scrapped a few years ago, was also on the agenda of the two-day meeting, said Mr. Biltaji.

He said that the council's absence created a big gap and an imbalance in joint Arab action.

Reactivating the council is a vital priority because it would contribute towards unifying policies of Arab airlines in the face of the challenges posed by the European airlines after 1993, added Mr. Biltaji.

The Arab World has 18 airlines whose efforts could be pooled and their operations promoted under the council's umbrella, particularly in the face of the European unity, scheduled for 1993, he added.

The delegates will also discuss questions related to the environment, and noise pollution, said Mr. Biltaji.

Taking part in the meeting are delegates from airlines in Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan and Tunisia in addition to the Yemeni Airline, Almidia, Gulf Air and Middle East Airlines of Lebanon.

University programme to help modernise industry

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan (UJ) plans to offer more practical training in its science programmes which currently concentrate on theory and academic training.

The university hopes the new orientation will benefit the national industry and introduce modern technology to the country, according to Dr. Khaled Toukan, head of the Industrial Engineering Department at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology in the university.

The department is currently in touch with the industrial sector and industrial businesses in Jordan, in preparation for the execution of an ambitious programme in this respect, said Dr. Toukan at the opening of a two-day symposium on industrial engineering organised by the university in cooperation with private and public institutions.

The symposium will discuss matters like quality control in industry and maintenance work. It will also examine the application of quality control measures in individual industries in the Kingdom and review methods used in conducting maintenance work.

Dr. Toukan said that the university is concerned with helping Jordan modernise its industrial production with the purpose of producing better quality and more competitive products.

The University's efforts are in line with the Kingdom's comprehensive development and modernisation programme to stimulate the national economy, said Dr. Toukan.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent congratulates Uruguay, Ukraine

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday sent cables to Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk congratulating them on their countries' national day. Prince Hassan wished the two presidents continued good health and happiness and their respective peoples further progress and prosperity.

Jordan to participate in WHO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of Mediterranean Regional Committee of the World Health Organisation (WHO) due to start in Alexandria, Egypt, on Oct. 13. The committee will discuss health policies in Mediterranean countries and a special report on the health conditions of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. Jordan will also take part in the Council of Arab Health Ministers' meeting which will be held ahead of the regional committee's meetings with the aim of coordinating Arab stands on several issues. Jordan's delegation to the two meetings will be headed by Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh.

Tamimi reviews needs of Sharia schools

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi had a meeting Monday with principals of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Sharia schools in the governorates of Amman, Irbid, Balqa and Karak. The meeting focused on the needs of these schools for qualified teachers, books and schools curricula and equipment. It was attended by Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel and other officials.

UJ camp in Shobak opens

AMMAN (Petra) — The first voluntary work camp organised by the University of Jordan's Students Council was opened Monday in Al Shobak area in Maan Governorate. The five-day camp, in which 300 students from the university are participating, was opened by Maan Governor Qasem Al Farayya. The camp activities include providing health services to school students and citizens, delivering medical lectures and planting forest trees.

ACC grants new loans to farmers

KARAK (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation's (ACC) branch in Karak Governorate has granted during the past eight months of 1992 JD 3,175,500 in loans to 1411 farmers in the governorate, Branch Director Hamed Al Hamadeh said Monday. He said of the total number, 125 loans worth JD 438,400 were long-term loans which were extended for land reform projects, planting trees and digging artesian wells. He added that 792 loans worth JD 2,066,450 were medium-term loans. Most of these loans were granted to southern Jordan Valley region farmers for animal-breeding projects, he said. The third category of loans, the seasonal loans, benefitted 494 farmers and included those harmed by last winter's snowstorms and adverse weather conditions.

Mashaqbeh stresses importance of field work

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Development Minister Amin Mashaqbeh stressed Monday the need to activate social work through field rather than office work. In a tour of social services centres in Jerash and Kafranja, the minister called for striking a balance between the social realities and changes sweeping the local society. In Kafranja, Dr. Mashaqbeh opened a social development office and attended a graduation ceremony of triot students in the town. In Jerash, he met with Jerash District Governor Ahmad Al Lawzi and was briefed on the needs of the district of social services needs.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Salam Kanaan at Al Bakharat House in Umm Al Kumdun village, near the Arabian Horse Club.
- ★ Art exhibition by Lebanese artist Basma Boustal at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Grace Ghannoum Khleif at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Rami Al Sayyed at Baladna Art Gallery.

PSD director praises police

AMMAN (J.T.) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali Monday praised the police department in the Amman governorate for its efforts in ensuring the success of by-elections held last week in the fourth and sixth districts within the Amman Governorate.

"Thanks to the efforts of the police department in this governorate, the by-elections in the two districts were conducted fairly and freely, which reflects the dedication of policemen in maintaining security and order," said Major General Ali at a meeting with senior PSD officers at the Amman Police Department.

The by-election went smoothly in the fourth district, which elected Mr. Anwar Al Hadid but that in the sixth district was marred by disturbances towards the end of the election day on Aug. 18.

Police were reported to have used tear gas to disperse rioters who stoned the district governor's offices in protest against a decision to extend for two hours the balloting time.

Dr. Salem to be remembered

AMMAN (J.T.) — About 300 Jordanian personalities will hold a special gathering at the University of Jordan Wednesday evening in commemoration of the late Dr. Khalil Al Salem, who passed away two months ago.

A former minister of finance and Central Bank governor, Dr. Salem was rapporteur of the Finance Committee of the Upper House of Parliament when he passed away on June 19 at the age of 71. He started his professional career as a teacher and held many government positions.

A panel including a number of prominent Jordanian figures will deliver speeches in remembrance of the late Dr. Salem. Speakers will include Upper House of Parliament President Ahmad Al Lawzi, Former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri, Deputy Prime Minister Thouran Al Hindawi, Senator Hamed Al Farhan, Senator Kamel Shaer, former director of the Public Security Department General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, former director general of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Wasef Azar, Anglican bishop Elia Khouri, a member of the Salem family.

Member of the Lower House of Parliament Hosni Shiyab will be master of ceremonies.

RSCN criticises random building as a serious threat to the environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Anis Muasher has criticised the random construction of homes in various parts of the Kingdom at the expense of productive land and wildlife saying the practice was endangering the ecosystem.

"Pollution of the environment and the reduction of wildlife are harmful elements to the environment, which is also being endangered through rampant consumption of natural resources," said Mr. Muasher in a lecture delivered in Amman Monday.

"One cannot do away with development because it is vital for improving the quality of life for man. But in order to retain sustainable development, one should not destroy the environment and deprive coming generations of the opportunity of having a decent life on this planet," Mr. Muasher said in the lecture, entitled, "Economic Development and the Environment."

The RSCN is entrusted with the task of protecting the environment and various species of animals and plants as well as setting up wildlife reserves in Jordan.

"Our natural resources are a gift from God to man, and it is meant for all generations," Mr. Muasher stressed in the lecture at the Orthodox Club.

The pattern of consumption in society also has its own effects on the environment and it is incumbent on the Jordanian society to find means of curtailing and rationalising consumption of the country's meagre and limited resources, Mr. Muasher said.

The RSCN, established in 1966, is a private voluntary organisation with a public service status dedicated to the conservation of nature and natural resources.

The society has been playing an active role in the enforcement of laws related to the conservation of nature and environmental protection.

In addition, the society actively promotes all environmental protection efforts in Jordan and is in charge of six wildlife reserves created to preserve the life of endangered species.

Speakers back 'unrecognised' journalists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Monday pledged to help in reversing a move by the Lower House which makes official recognition of professional journalists dependent on their membership of the Jordan Press Association (JPA).

The pledges came at separate meetings between Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat with a committee representing journalists who are not members of the JPA.

The journalists are protesting a Lower House amendment to an article in the draft press and publications law that defines a journalist as "one practising the profession and registered in JPA books."

The journalists, all non-JPA members, want the second condition dropped.

Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi urged journalists to lobby for repealing the article with senators and the Senate's Judiciary Committee when the law comes before the Senate in next November's ordinary session.

The journalists, who call themselves "Journalists for the Defence of Press Freedoms," want the Senate to also reconsider other articles in the law already passed by the Lower House. Notable among these articles, one committee member said, is the one which deprives journalists of the right to keep their news sources secret.

"We are not only defending our right to join or not to join the association," Mustafa Rawashdeh who works for the leftist weekly Al Ahali, told the Jordan Times. "We are out to lobby against the law's backward measures."

Dr. Arabiyat told the journalists it was still possible to repeal the articles in question at the Lower House despite the fact they were already passed.

"If you could convince enough deputies of the need to do so, they can still ask for a revision," Dr. Arabiyat said.

The "Journalists for the Defence of Press Freedoms" on Sunday staged a sit-in in front of Parliament, holding placards and distributing leaflets listing their demands.

Around 40 journalists took part. Although exact figures of the number of non-JPA member journalists are not available, various estimates put it at around 300, slightly more than the JPA membership.

By Monday, 40 articles of the 59-article law have been passed. Parliament will resume debate of the rest of articles today.

"But depending on your effort," Dr. Arabiyat told the journalists, "the House might start discussing the draft law anew."

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Jordan Times

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Ease in the atmosphere?

WITH MUCH fanfare Israel announced Sunday a string of measures that purport to relax its grip on the Palestinians living under its occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The timing of the "relaxation" steps was well chosen as it coincided with the opening of the sixth round of peace talks between Israel and the Arab parties in Washington.

While no-one should belittle the significance of the "confidence building" moves, which range from reopening sealed streets and houses to the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners who have already completed two thirds of their prison terms as well as yesterday's decision to cancel the order to expel 11 Palestinians, it would actually be wrong to exaggerate their depth or blow their meaning out of proportions.

On the surface, the nature of the measures aiming to improve the atmosphere in the occupied territories and in turn ameliorate the environment of the Arab-Israeli peace parleys after the Labour Party had assumed power in Israel is such that their undertaking is needed in order to make progress in the talks. On closer inspection of what they mean and what remains to be done, however, the measures are not substantive enough to, on their own, open the door fully for a breakthrough in Washington. To be frank and honest about it, much more was expected from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in terms of confidence-building with the Palestinians than what was offered Sunday. Given the high expectations generated by Rabin's return to power, the series of steps he has taken so far can be described by some anti-climatic and by others as at least disappointing. This is especially so since none of the measures announced touch the heart of the matter that divides the Israelis from the Palestinians. For example there is no reassuring statement (much less steps) with regard to the issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. Likewise there are no reassuring policies on wider Palestinian representation and the future of the Palestinians or their territories.

Granted that such matters can still be raised during the impending negotiations, or even in the months after that, but in order for the Rabin government to show any kind of break with the previous Likud-led government, it has to be much more forthcoming on how far it is willing to go in its quest for peace with its Arab neighbours. Had the Israeli government taken further, more needed, steps to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, the new measures would have been greeted with greater seriousness by the Arab side. But to present a limited plan of action as something which is not even half of what it is supposed to be is counterproductive at best. Perhaps it is still too soon for the new Israeli government to show its true colours on the ongoing talks and that more time would be needed to judge its stance on the issue of peace. If that is indeed the case, then the just announced measures should be taken for what they are worth, nothing more and nothing less. After all, no Palestinian should be expelled from his homeland in the first place, and repressive measures against the Palestinians are illegal according to international law and run counter to all human rights and democratic practices in the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AS THE new round of talks between the Arabs and the Israelis begin in Washington, the United States and its allies embark on a fresh measure designed to further fragment the Arab Nation, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. While the Arab parties to the Middle East peace process show goodwill and cooperation, with the aim of reaching a lasting settlement to the conflict with Israel, the U.S. prepares to impose its military will and launch aggression on Iraq with the purpose of partitioning that Arab country, said the paper. Had the Arabs made it a condition for their participation in the Washington parley that the U.S. and its allies stop harassing Iraq, Washington could have backed from its current hostile attitude towards the Arab country, argued the daily. It said that Washington could have been forced to give up its aggressive stand had the Arabs refused to participate in the new round of talks with Israel. They should have demanded that the plot against Iraq be abandoned and that Iraq's unity and territorial integrity be safeguarded, stressed the daily. It said that Mr. Bush would not be able to turn down the Arab parties demand because that would mean halting the peace talks, with adverse consequences on his current struggle to retain his post at the White House. The paper said that the Arabs should take a very firm stand vis-a-vis the Bush administration as there is no chance for them to hope for U.S. help in guaranteeing their rights and those of the Palestinians. It said that one can hope for nothing from Washington which is leading the most atrocious starvation campaign against the innocent population of an Arab country.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour daily Monday launched a strong attack on Iran for its stand vis-a-vis the ongoing partition of Iraq by the Western countries. It is not a secret to say that Iran has been all along behind the idea of creating an exclusion zone in southern Iraq, as its government has been advocating and peddling the whole plot through what has been called the Islamic Revolutionary Council in the south, led by Bakr Hakim, said Taher Al Udwan. The writer said that Iran's prompt approval of the U.S.-led conspiracy against Iraq is only a manifestation of its expansionist aims against the Arab World in general and Iraq in particular. Ever since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, Tehran has never ceased its attempts to exploit it for its own advantage through all means and methods, paving the ground for the partition of Iraq and the destruction of the Arab country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the writer stressed. We should not be naive and resort to appeals to the Iranians, in the name of Islam, to refrain from involving themselves in this conspiracy, because such an appeal did not achieve anything in the past two years, said the writer. He said that Iran has a major interest in partitioning Iraq and for this reason, it is aligning itself behind the Western plots aimed at fragmenting Iraq.

Unqualified source revelations stifle investigative journalism

By Muhammad I. Ayish

THE recent Lower House of Parliament's ruling that a journalist's source of information would have to be revealed in court, especially on matters related to state security, is bound to spawn further confusion in the future relationships between the press and government in a democratic Jordan.

Taken at face value, the amendment to Article 6 of the 59-article draft law on press and publications seems to steer the press system further and further in the much-welcomed path of the social responsibility philosophy. The press would be free to gather and report information; yet, it is equally accountable to society for its behaviour.

Although nobody would argue against the legitimate state security concerns of the country, the legislators' failure to define the term "state security" and to spell out the conditions under which reporters ought to disclose their sources in court seems to have created a major legal loophole that would run contrary to the interests of the press.

To understand the potential adverse effects of such a ruling on news gathering and

reporting, let us consider just one hypothetical situation.

A murder takes place in Amman. The perpetrator is not arrested, yet is noticed by a lady in the neighbouring building. The lady, unwilling to get entangled in the intricate web of police investigations of the case, fails to call the police, thus keeping the murderer longer on the loose. One month later, the eyewitness cannot hold on to her secret any longer and she decides to call a newspaper reporter to furnish him with her account of the story on the condition that her name would be withheld. The reporter makes a promise to keep the identity of the eyewitness secret. The next day, an update story on the murder case is published with ample quotations attributed to "a source who asked not to be identified." Before the end of the day, the reporter is summoned to the prosecutor general's office and is asked to divulge information on his anonymous source.

In this hypothetical situation, the government may argue that the public interest would be better served by disclosing information on the identity of the source. Police

investigators may carry out further questioning of the source to be able to hunt down the murderer and thus contribute to reinforcing harmony and peace in society.

On the other hand, the reporter, or newspaper management, would consider the case from a different perspective. First, the newspaper should maintain an image of credibility in the eyes of its private and public sources. Breaking promises given to sources would certainly help damage source-reporter relationship and would cause sources to be less daring in confiding information to reporters when they know that disclosures of their names might pose certain risks to their jobs or personal safety.

A second argument that might be levelled by news reporters or managements is that they could never accept being part of the government crime investigation apparatus. Such a role would in fact have destructive effects on the image of the press as an autonomous institution concerned with furnishing the citizenry with information on local, national, Arab and international affairs as stated

in the first provision of the amended Article 11 of the Press and Publications Law.

At the opposite end of the hypothetical spectrum of cases, let us consider another situation. Suppose that a disgruntled civil service employee calls a newspaper to inform about "massive embezzlements" of funds by a senior official at his ministry. He also asks that his name be kept unknown to the general public. Because that specific ministry was previously a target of investigation of missing funds, the newspaper thinks the story is worth reporting, and therefore is published the next day. All statements are attributed to a source at that ministry, yet the name of that source is not revealed. When a fresh investigation of the allegations has not reached any solid conclusions on the matter, the newspaper is sued by the ministry for libel. The newspaper is asked to reveal its source of information, and it rightly does.

The second hypothetical example seems to point to the impossibility of making outright generalised judgements on reporters' revelations of sources as each case seems to require

different sets of judgements and argumentation. In the fund-embezzlement case, the source is apparently using the newspaper to spread rumours about his boss for personal reasons. A revelation of his name in a court would indeed be in the public interest. A more stringent mechanism of ascertaining source credibility would be useful for news reporters as they handle such matters.

The above two hypothetical examples are brought out here to highlight the complexity and sensitivity of the source revelation issue for both the government and the press. As the two cases suggest, you can never come up with a single formula for dealing with the issue in different situations. This, however, should not prevent the Lower House of Parliament from providing further details as to when reporters would be required by law to divulge information on their sources.

Based on how this issue is handled in U.S. courts, the writer suggests that reporters are legally required to reveal confidence in court when the government

1) Shows that there is a probable cause to believe that the newsman has information which is clearly relevant to a specific probable violation of law.

2) Demonstrates that the information sought cannot be obtained by alternative means less destructive of reporters' constitutionally-recognised rights.

3) Demonstrates a compelling and overriding interest in the information.

It is unfortunate that Article 6 was passed in the Lower House of Parliament without eliciting appropriate media reactions to the potential consequences of its provision on source revelation for newswork. Applied with no qualifications to all cases, the provision would have a chilling effect on both reporters and sources to divulge information on matters of substance to the public. The main casualty would be investigative journalism.

Dr. Muhammad I. Ayish is an associate professor at the Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication at Yarmouk University.



In foreign policy, Bush and Clinton sound alike

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton says his ideas on foreign affairs would be a breath of fresh air compared with the "inertia" of President Bush's global policy, but they are actually not far apart in their foreign policy plans.

But even small differences on foreign policy could be significant if Democrat Clinton can convince voters he has a vision of where he will lead the country in the post-cold war world — in foreign as well as domestic policy — and Mr. Bush continues to point largely to his record.

The question Mr. Bush's campaign will press until November 3 is: Whom do you trust to make decisions of war and peace?

Both sides agree threats remain even though the cold war has ended, and Mr. Bush's aides believe the voters will answer this question in favour of their candidate.

The 68-year-old president, who considers foreign policy his forte, has an enviable list of credits on his resume, including former vice president, envoy to China, CIA director and congressman. That gives him both a record to flaunt and to defend. He knows scores of world leaders, many for years.

Mr. Clinton, the 46-year-old governor of the small state of Arkansas, has virtually no practical experience in this area.

Republicans, initially shell-shocked that Americans had turned against Mr. Bush for ignoring domestic problems in favour of foreign affairs, seized on what they believe is a major Clinton weakness at their convention in Houston.

In his speech accepting the Republican nomination in Houston, Mr. Bush mocked Mr. Clinton as a foreign policy amateur not to be trusted with U.S. foreign policy at a time when there are "terrorists and aggressors to stand up to, dangerous weapons to be control-

led and destroyed."

"Who will lead the world in the face of these challenges? Not my opponent. In his acceptance speech he devoted just 65 seconds to telling us about the world," Mr. Bush said.

As for himself, Mr. Bush basically repeated his denial that he might let election-year politics dictate whether he forces a confrontation with Iraq over its reluctance to abide by Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"You can be sure, I will never let politics interfere with a foreign policy decision. Forget the election. I will do what's right for our national security," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Clinton makes the point that Republican Ronald Reagan, still wildly popular with his party, had a similar lack of experience — he served as California's governor before becoming president — and he left office with some creditable foreign policy accomplishments.

Foreign policy experts who took out a New York Times advertisement this week argued that Mr. Clinton has a foreign policy that is "coherent and firm."

He and running mate Al Gore "see the promise and dangers now before us and can provide the will, the skills and the ideals to meet the challenges we face," they wrote.

The Bush camp, which initially seemed to want to play down foreign policy because of voter preoccupation with the struggling U.S. economy and hostility to foreign affairs issues, has apparently decided to emphasise Mr. Bush's record.

They gave him credit for aiding the fall of communism and the reunification of Germany, maintaining ties to NATO, concluding historic arms agreements, ousting Iraq from Kuwait and bringing Arabs and Israelis into direct negotiations.

Mr. Clinton has tried not to

pick too many fights with Mr. Bush in this area.

Attempting to counter the image of Democrats as weak on defence and unwilling to support military action to defend American interests, he made it clear, for instance, that he would not second-guess decisions made by Mr. Bush on how to deal with Iraq for its defiance of Gulf war ceasefire terms.

Aga Khan optimistic of new world order

THE AGA Khan, imam (spiritual leader) of the Ismaili Muslims saw optimism for developing countries in the wake of the demise of communism as a political force. He was speaking at a gathering in Toronto, Canada, attended by Canadian government ministers, diplomats and leaders of the Ismaili community to mark the twentieth anniversary of the arrival of the Ismailis in Canada following the expulsion of all Asians from Uganda by ex-President Idi Amin in 1972.

The Aga Khan said that though these changes, together with the worldwide recession, have had an impact on the funding of aid programmes in the poor countries of Africa and Asia, there was some reason for optimism. "The conflict between the power blocs is gone, hopefully forever. The massive imposition of dogma on human minds may also be gone, perhaps also for ever. Henceforth, artificial constraints on human intelligence will be replaced in many lands by new horizons of hope of thought."

The Aga Khan is on a 14-day visit to Canada. In Ottawa he met

Bush back in the race but 1992 will not be replay of 1988

By Irwin Arief
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President George Bush has bounced back into the running for reelection, raising hopes in his Republican Party that he can duplicate his 1988 come-from-behind victory in 1992.

But while there are similarities between the present campaign and the last one, there are also significant differences which suggest that the race for the presidential election in November is still wide open.

White House and Bush campaign aides were jubilant as they wrapped up the Republican national convention and headed back to the capital with the latest polls showing the president pulling almost even with Democrat Bill Clinton.

As the convention began, Mr. Clinton had been leading by 20 to 25 points in the polls.

Mr. Bush's spirited acceptance speech, his pledge of broad tax cuts in a second term and four days of sabre-rattling by party leaders at the Houston convention pumped up the faithful and gave new life to a campaign in tatters just a week earlier.

"I'm convinced now he's going to win," said one Bush aide as he returned to Washington.

"He's raring to go and he's taken off the gloves. Things have turned around and it's going to be just like 1988," said the aide, who pleaded anonymity.

Not that long ago many in the party were suggesting that Mr. Bush dump his running mate, Vice President Dan Quayle, to avoid a disaster in November.

Some of the party's conservative wing were even asking Mr. Bush himself to step down.

What a difference a few days

can make.

The sudden revival in Mr. Bush's fortunes inevitably invited comparisons with 1988, when Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis emerged from his national convention with a lead similar to Mr. Clinton's.

Within just a few weeks, the lead had disappeared and Mr. Bush, then vice president, went on to trounce him in November.

Mr. Bush mounted a formidable assault, cloaking himself in the flag as he shredded Mr. Dukakis's record, questioned his patriotism and told voters he could not be trusted as commander-in-chief.

But this year the widespread feeling is that "it ain't over yet," as one Democratic tactician put it.

For one, the two parties' conventions this year delivered fundamentally different messages to voters.

The Democrats spoke of unity, urging that Americans end artificial divisions and come together to solve problems.

The Republicans' message, by contrast, focused on family values as a cure-all for the nation's ills. It was an unusual approach.

Traditionally, a candidate tries to bind together different voter blocs in a winning coalition.

Mr. Bush's speech was delivered well, and showed the president was primed for a tough campaign, but it provided little insight into his programme for four more years.

His one new proposal — across-the-board tax cuts — lacked specifics and would depend on agreement with Congress on where to cut spending to offset the cost to the treasury.

In 1988, Mr. Bush was able to win by tarring his opponent because he had no record of his own



George Bush

to run on. In 1992, his record is there for all to see.

This time around Mr. Bush has been forced onto the defensive over the economy as Mr. Clinton has scored points with voters on his charge that the president has ignored the recession.

And in contrast to the drab campaigning style of Mr. Dukakis, Mr. Clinton has proved a vigorous and combative opponent.

As the Republican convention ended, Mr. Clinton accused Mr. Bush of being in the grip of his party's extreme right wing, and said he could not be trusted because he had lied to the American people about his opponent's record.

"He didn't tell the truth last night about my tax record or his," Mr. Clinton has said.

It could turn out that both men will be so negative in the autumn campaign that voters will simply stay home in droves, letting a president emerge by default.

Whatever emerges, a real race is in prospect.

LETTERS

Elite services

To the Editor:

It seems that every sector in Jordan has benefited from development and modernisation — except for our official information services, foremost of which is Jordan Television.

Instead of attracting viewers to its programmes, news and events or asking the viewers' opinions about them, Jordan Television has been focusing its attention on a limited group of people, whose views it seeks on various events and on every occasion.

I was motivated to write this letter after seeing Jordan Television hurrying to show its viewers the cables certain him speedy recovery. The television totally ignored the devotion and true feelings of the Jordanian in the street who, more than these officials, is concerned about the King's health, deeply affected for our leader. I would have liked to see Jordan Television cameras invading the streets, collecting expressions of true feelings and devotions expressed by the people towards their leader.

In my view, unless the information service in Jordan transforms itself to become part of the public, reflecting its views and serving its interests, it can never attain success.

Saad Silawi,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Bilaterals resume in Washington

(Continued from page 1)

time to press for elections as soon as possible after Nov. 1, the date by which agreement on autonomy had originally been scheduled to be reached.

Israel's Haaretz daily reported Israel wants the negotiating teams to break up into subcommittees to negotiate how much authority Palestinians have in each field, such as health and education.

One subcommittee would negotiate the terms for general elections in the occupied territories to choose a Palestinian administrative council.

However, Israeli negotiators are pessimistic that the Palestinians would accept the proposal, Haaretz said. The Palestinians are demanding a much broader rule over the occupied territories than Israel has suggested.

Israel also proposes moving talks from Washington to the Middle East.

Israel's biggest-selling daily newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth, reported that Israel would tell Syria it was ready to withdraw from parts of the Golan Heights, seized along with the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war, in return for a peace treaty.

But Syria's chief delegate, Mouwafiq Al Alaf, gave no hint of compromise on his way into the talks.

"The only way to achieve comprehensive peace is to return all territories occupied in 1967," he said.

Israeli officials declined comment on the Yedioth Ahronoth report which said: "Itamar Rabinovich, chief negotiator with the Syrians, has been authorised by the prime minister to announce today that Israel accepts United Nations Resolution 242 in all its aspects."

Israel Radio said on Aug. 18 that the Jewish state would offer Damascus, an "interim agreement which will include territorial compromise."

Haaretz said last week Washington had proposed sending American troops to the Golan as part of a future peace treaty. U.N. soldiers currently separate the two sides.

Mr. Rabinovich, the only replacement Mr. Rabin brought to the Shamir-appointed negotiating team, said he had a "long list" of new proposals when he arrived in Washington.

Members of the Palestinian delegation, said Monday they wanted to see greater involvement in the peace process, a French government official said.

Delegation members met a senior Foreign Ministry civil servant during a stop-over on Monday morning in Paris on their way from Amman to the talks in Washington, ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard told reporters.

"The delegation expressed its wish to see Europe play a far more active role in negotiations," Mr. Bernard said, but gave no other details.

"This meeting allowed a deep exchange of views on the sixth round of (Middle East) peace talks," he said.

The Palestinian delegates left for Washington Monday declaring victory in a bureaucratic battle with Israel that delayed their

departure for 48 hours.

"We gained a lot from this delay," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said before leaving.

"Although the delay was not intended and not of our making, I think it was extremely positive and helped remove the obstacles before the start of the peace talks," she said.

The team, which turned back on Friday after Israel prevented some members from leaving because they had no permits, arrived in Amman on Sunday after Washington reassured them Israel would not harass them at the King Hussein Bridge crossing.

Dr. Ashrawi said details of a binding written accord on the treatment and status of the Palestinian peace team would be worked out with Israel and the United States during the Washington talks.

Before their departure the team met top PLO officials in Amman for a strategy meeting.

"We know that the new Israeli government is willing to negotiate and that is positive," Dr. Ashrawi said on Monday. "We enter the talks with clear and implementable projects and we are fully prepared to discuss all the details," she added.

"But we also know it is going to be a difficult task and we will be put under pressure because the Israelis are going to use different negotiating tactics."

Egypt

(Continued from page 1)

government initiatives that would gradually allow them to preach in mosques as the security situation calmed.

The government passed a law last month making membership of "terrorist" groups punishable by death, but some diplomats said officials may now start to turn a blind eye to methods such as deliberately killing militants said to be "resisting arrest."

Police taking part in the operation Manqabad said the militants opened fire as they tried to arrest them. A lengthy gunbattle ensued and when police entered the apartment, they found all seven already dead.

It was the fourth gunbattle in a month in which police have reported that militants have been killed but neither militants nor police have been injured.

A local state prosecutor said the seven, who were aged between 20 and 22 and mostly students, had two rifles and a revolver between them at the time of their death.

A visitor to the apartment a few hours later found hundreds of spent rounds on the street outside where police had fired in at the militants.

Security forces privately admit great difficulty in finding witnesses prepared to testify in court against militants.

Israel cancels 11 expulsions

occupied in the 1967 war. Mr. Shamir insisted it did not apply to the Golan Heights, which overlook the Sea of Galilee.

Mr. Rabin says Israel will not come down from the Golan but he has suggested "several kilometres" of border areas could be returned to Syria in a peace agreement.

Israel Radio said on Aug. 18 Israel would offer Syria an "interim agreement which will include territorial compromise."

Palestinians reacted cautiously to Mr. Rabin's measures. "The Israelis are trying to improve the atmosphere," said Palestinian delegate and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij. "But these are not concessions. They are measures which are limited in scope so the Arab reaction will also be limited."

Right-wingers said the gestures would encourage Arab violence and demands for further Israeli concessions. "The signal is clear," Mr. Shamir told Israel Radio. "This is a government that favours Arab interests and harms Jewish interests."

The latest measures illustrated the cautious path Mr. Rabin is taking between trying to build the Palestinians' faith in the peace talks that reopened Monday, and Israeli hardliners who want a tough posture towards the Arabs.

Thus the government stopped short of meeting Palestinian and U.S. demands to halt the practice altogether, and in an apparent nod to the hardliners, said it would continue to order expulsions "where it sees fit."

It also said the 11 would be kept in "administrative detention" — imprisonment without trial — "to distance them from hostile activities on the ground."

Israel Radio reported that their detention would last six more months. "Of course expulsion is worse than 'administrative detention,' but both of them are bad," said Khetam Abu Samhadaneh, 18, sister of Sami Abu Samhadaneh, who was under an expulsion order.

The 800 prisoners to be freed consist only of Palestinians who have served two-thirds of their sentences and did not commit acts of bloodshed.

The eased travel rights apply only to Palestinians aged over 50. Previously the age was 60. Rooms walled up in homes of Palestinians will be unsealed, but only if the offence occurred more than five years ago.

The government also averted confrontation Monday with Jewish settlers in the West Bank over an illegal structure, allowing it to stand for another 21 days.

The makeshift building, put up as a challenge to Mr. Rabin's curbs on Jewish building in the West Bank, was to have been demolished Monday.

Arab concern

(Continued from page 1)

announce plans to shoot down Iraqi warplanes violating the "no-fly" zone this week but it could "slip back in time."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein promised Iraqis victory Monday in his latest struggle with the Gulf war allies.

"Iraqis will surely emerge victorious from the present confrontation with their enemies," President Saddam said in remarks published in Baghdad newspapers.

He spoke at an emergency cabinet meeting on Sunday, vowing "no compromise of national rights" in the face of Western plans to impose the "no-fly" zone in the south.

But the media said the session dealt mainly with the economic struggle against corruption, profiteering and the effects of two-year-old U.N. trade sanctions.

The president said he was waging "war on behalf of the poor" because "profiteers, hoarders and monopolists... are siding with imperialist wolves, trying to bite the country and the Arab Nation," newspapers said.

"Every minister, civil servant and ordinary citizen should refuse to compromise with those who are trying to crush the poor and harm society," he said.

"The government should see to it that nobody accumulates a fortune without the required national and moral right," he instructed his ministers.

President Saddam announced a

Husseini quits

(Continued from page 1)

as 75 per cent in Muslim areas. He said he would investigate reports of people using forged identity cards to cast more than one vote.

Unofficial results released by the opposition showed that Hizbollah's fundamentalist candidates harvested twice as many votes as Mr. Husseini's votes.

The results indicate widespread dissatisfaction with Mr. Hrawi's government, which has been unable to cope with a devastating economic crisis following the 1975-90 civil war that prevented elections since 1972.

Hizbollah sympathisers fired their rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers in the air in Baalbek to celebrate the election victory in the fundamentalist faction's first entry into national politics.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 667171

rough "plan of action" on Aug. 12 to tackle the dire economic problems caused by sanctions, which were imposed to punish Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Newspapers now report Iraqi ministers holding meeting after meeting to translate the plan into action.

Employees of Iraq's two state banks must now disclose their bank balances and possessions.

"Managers, financial consultants, heads of sections and cashiers in Iraqi banks will have to fill in special forms declaring their movable and immovable property," said Babel, a newspaper published by the president's son Uday.

Three of President Saddam's closest aides including Defence Minister Ali Hassan Al Majed are still touring Shi'ite cities be-

low the 32nd Parallel, the area the United States, Britain and France are expected to police by air.

Al Qadisiyah, the defence ministry newspaper, said Mr. Ma-jeed met with the tribal leaders in the Basra marshes who vowed to "sacrifice our souls in defence of our country's sovereignty and security."

Al Thawra, the ruling Baath Party newspaper, said Iraq was fully prepared to confront new aggression.

"Iraq, with all its capability, strength and potential... stands up for the unity of its people," the newspaper said.

President Saddam sent Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz to Yemen on Friday where he won backing for the Iraqi government's stance.



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King

(Continued from page 1)

"abnormal cells" but that the King's complete recovery was expected without further treatment or therapy.

Dr. Farraj, a dermatologist and internist, is with King Hussein at the Mayo Clinic, where the 57-year-old Monarch was hospitalised last Monday.

The surgery Thursday removed a blockage that had caused a narrowing of the ureter, a muscular tube that carries urine from the kidney to the bladder. The left kidney also was removed.

The abnormal cells were only present in the lower, inner part of the left ureter and there was no evidence of any spread, the palace said.

King Hussein has received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad who inquired about the King's health, and wished him speedy recovery. The King received a similar call from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

King Hussein received cables from Sheikh Fhamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa, crown prince and prime minister of Bahrain, Commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan Naim Al Khatib, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Iz-zadin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, Public Security Department Director-General Major-General Fadel Ali Fheid and Director of the Civil Defence Department Maj.-Gen. Afif Al Ghoul.

The King sent reply cables to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament as well as Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for cables they had sent the King wishing him speedy recovery.

St. Germain inspire awe in France

LONDON (R) — The battle has only just begun but Paris St. Germain have already won their fight to be taken seriously as French soccer title contenders.

With maximum points after three matches, the Parisians are already being spoken of in the awestruck terms once reserved for champions Marseille.

"There's not much you can do when you play a team that strong," Strasbourg trainer Gilbert Gress said after the visiting Parisians thrashed his team 4-0.

"They've got brilliant individual skills and they play well together. All I can do is wish good luck to the other teams who will meet them," Gress added resignedly.

"It's the best match I've seen since I became president," said Bernard Brochand, in his second year at the rejuvenated Paris club. "But I think we can play even better."

Libertarian striker George Weah, who joined from Monaco, scored twice as Paris settled into their

stride. Marseille looked far less impressive and had to fight hard to overcome lowly Metz 3-2.

Trainer Jean Fernandez was unperturbed. "We've still got plenty of work to do but we're getting better and better," he said. "The great Marseille will soon be back."

"It was very close but the result is logical," said Fernandez. "I'm pleased because the team never gave up."

European Soccer

Rivals Monaco, runners up in the league and European Cup finalists last season, made up for their disappointing 4-1 loss at Auxerre last week by overcoming Nimes 3-1.

Germany's Juergen Klinsmann, who joined from Italian side Internazionale, scored his third goal for the team from the principality.

Caen, who will play in Europe

for the first time this season, scored their first two points when they trounced newly-promoted Valenciennes 3-0.

Once great Bordeaux, back with the best after spending one year in the second division, conceded a 1-1 draw at home to Toulon.

The Arsenal of old returned in England after starting the season with two surprise defeats, winning 2-0 at one of the toughest venues in the land — Liverpool.

"The Premier League is a bit topsy-turvy at the moment and the big clubs have had their setbacks," said relieved Arsenal Manager George Graham. "We were very poor in the first two games, but I love it when the critics give us stick."

"Arsenal are always at their best in adversity and the criticism we get makes my job easy because the players respond to it so positively," he said.

Arsenal's Swedish forward Andreas Limpar, who scored the first goal, was having X-rays

Monday to determine if he had fractured a cheekbone during the match and looks certain to miss Sweden's friendly international against Norway Wednesday.

In the German Bundesliga, Bayern Munich, who went through three trainers last season before finishing a dismal 10th, beat Kaiserslautern 1-0 to remain top.

But the main interest at the weekend was off the pitch, when Bayern Vice President Franz Beckenbauer announced that German World Cup team captain Lothar Matthaus would return to the troubled side from Internazionale Milan.

There was disappointment for former England manager Bobby Robson whose new club, Sporting Lisbon, drew 0-0 to newly-promoted Tirsense in their first league match of the Portuguese season.

"If you don't score goals you don't win a match so you suffer," Robson said.

"It was a bad game and a bad result," said Sporting captain Jorge Cadete after the match. "Tirsense came to Lisbon to play defensively and they eventually achieved their objective," he added.

Juskoviak, who helped Poland win silver in Barcelona, tried unsuccessfully to score four times in the first half, but all three of his headers came close to the Tirsense net.

"There were good opportunities where he might have scored in the first half, but he is a player that needs good crosses and part of the game that was missing was that," Robson said.

Juskoviak, who was top scorer in last month's Barcelona Olympics and Dutch defender Stanislaw Walicki were both making their debut with Sporting.

The Sporting players grew increasingly nervous towards the end of the match and three minutes from the final whistle Tirsense's Brazilian striker Silvinho Paiva came within a whisker of scoring.

But the ball was skillfully deflected to a corner by Sporting's Croat keeper Tomislav Ivkovic.

A further blow to Sporting fans was the government's decision to close the main stand of its stadium to reinforce its foundations, which some experts say are unsafe.

The central stand of Alvalade Stadium, which can seat 10,000 spectators, was decked with skull and crossbone banners and was guarded by police to prevent fans from invading it.

The club management insists that the stand is safe, but the authorities this week ordered it to be closed for reinforcement.

Portuguese Cup holders Boavista meanwhile beat newly-promoted Belenenses at home 1-0.

Farense beat Salmagoreis 2-0 at home with headers by Ademir Marques in the 60th minute and Luis Nogueira in the 71st.

League champions Porto delayed their opening match against Estoril until Tuesday due to their participation in a football tournament in Seville.

Sanchez Vicario upsets Seles in Canadian Open

MONTREAL (R) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario established herself as a genuine U.S. Open threat Sunday when she beat world number one Monica Seles to win the \$550,000 Canadian Open women's tennis championships.

The second-seeded Sanchez displayed great poise under pressure in holding on for a 6-4 3-6 6-4 win over an error-prone Seles, who had beaten the Spaniard in all of their 10 previous meetings — most recently last week in California.

Even after Seles rallied from 0-3 to take a 4-3 third set lead, Sanchez refused to fold and fought back brilliantly in the final three games to earn the \$110,000 winner's prize.

An increasingly vulnerable Seles has now lost three successive finals for the first time since March of 1990. But the powerful Yugoslav, winner of the French and Australian opens this year, insisted her rivals were not closing in.

"It's totally my game being off. The other players are not catching up," said Seles, who begins defense of her U.S. Open crown on Aug. 31.

"I hope my confidence is not affected. I just want to get my game back."

The always confident Sanchez has maintained all week that she would win this tournament and used numerous perfectly-executed drop shots to frustrate Seles in Sunday's see-saw, two-hour, eight-minute final.

Sanchez took the first set by breaking Seles twice.

The second set turned on an eighth-game service break by Seles. The Spaniard had three chances to break back in the ninth game but was thwarted each time as Seles sent the match into a third set.

But Sanchez was not rattled by the setback and won the final three games with the loss of just five points after dropping four games in a row to Seles, who resumed her full-bore grunting as the match got tense.

"That (last) game was very emotional," Sanchez said. "Maybe I reached too much, but I knew it was very close. I had to go for it. The match was in my hands."

Sanchez now has her sights set firmly on the U.S. Open. "I've never before gotten by the semifinals," she said. "Last year, I was close to Martina Navratilova (in the quarters), but I lost it. But I've improved my game and I have much confidence."

Edberg defeats Lendl to reach New Haven final

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (R) — Stefan Edberg evened his career record against old rival Ivan Lendl to advance to the final of the Volvo International Tennis Championships where he will meet eighth-seeded American Maliwa Washington.

In his 26th match against Lendl over the past nine years, the top-seeded Swede posted a 7-6

4-6 6-3 win in a battle of former top-ranked players.

Washington, who reached the semifinals by ousting John McEnroe and second-seeded Wimbledon runner-up Goran Ivanisevic, scored a comfortable 6-4 6-2 win over unseeded Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, quarterfinal conqueror of fourth seed Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia.

Sampras continues hot streak with victory over Courier

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Second seed Pete Sampras confirmed his status as the hottest player on the men's tennis tour by defending his title at the \$1 million U.S. Hardcourt championships with an impressive victory over top-ranked Jim Courier.

Sampras picked up his second title in as many weeks and third of the summer with a decisive 6-4 6-4 win over the top seed in an all-American final.

The third-ranked Sampras won another U.S. Open tune-up event in Ohio last week and also won in Kitzbuhel, Austria prior to the Olympics.

"I had a really good week," said the 21-year-old Sampras, who survived a three-set test of nerves against Boris Becker in Saturday's semifinals.

"Each match I played better and better. I played about as well as I could today," said the 1990 U.S. Open champion, who should come into the year's final Grand Slam event as the hot favorite after a superb summer.

Courier, who broke out of a summer-long slump by reaching the final here, was impressed with Sampras.

"Pete's playing well," said the 21-year-old French and Australian Open champion. "He's hitting the ball extremely well from the baseline and he's serving well."

Sampras picked up \$144,000 for his ability to capitalize on

break opportunities in the one hour, 38 minute match played in on-court temperatures that soared to 102 degrees (39 C).

Ultimately, a couple of points made all the difference as Sampras managed to convert both his chances to break Courier, while the top seed failed in two attempts to break Sampras.

"I played solid except for two or three points and that cost me the breaks in both sets," said Courier, a third round loser at both Wimbledon and the Olympics this summer.

"When you're on a hot streak (like Sampras), you don't make those two or three bad points," added Courier, who pocketed \$75,905 for his efforts.

Courier fell behind in the fifth game when Sampras hit a winning forehand at 30-40 for the lone break of the opening set.

In the second set, the world number one floundered at deuce in the seventh game. He double faulted to give Sampras a break point and then watched as the second seed unleashed an untouchable backhand crosscourt volley to go 4-3.

After each break Sampras was able to cling to the advantage and serve out the set.

"I thought I served very well, very smart," said Sampras, who had eight aces during the match. "I'm pleased because I'm really competing well. And I'm very confident."

GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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BID BOLDLY, BUT PLAY WELL

Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ 7 6 4
♥ K J 2
♦ K J 10 3
♣ J 7 5

EAST
♠ K 8 3 2
♥ A Q 10 7 5 4 3 2
♦ A Q 10 7 5 4 3 2
♣ A Q 10 7 5 4 3 2

WEST
♠ K 8 3 2
♥ A Q 10 7 5 4 3 2
♦ A Q 10 7 5 4 3 2
♣ A Q 10 7 5 4 3 2

EAST
♠ K 8 3 2
♥ A Q 10 7 5 4 3 2
♦ A Q 10 7 5 4 3 2
♣ A Q 10 7 5 4 3 2

THE BIDDING:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 10
Pass 2 NT Pass 30
Pass 3 NT Pass 40
Pass 40 Pass 40
Pass 50 Pass 60
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠
We have always felt that bridge is a bidder's game. However, if you are going to bid your values to the hilt, you had better possess the technique to land those ambitious contracts you are bound to reach. Consider this hand from the recent European Ladies Championship in Killarney.

With four spades headed by a top honor, West correctly judged that

an initial preempt would be wrong, so passed in first seat, then entered the bidding later. When South's cue-bids elicited the information that much of North's strength was in hearts, six diamonds was a trifle aggressive.

West did well to stay away from the heart lead that would have made life simple for declarer. Unfortunately, the spade lead gave declarer a tempo that should have made the contract easy to fulfill. Declarer won in hand and, when trumps proved to be 4-0, declarer drew trumps and tried to avoid losing a second spade trick by taking a finesse. No luck — down one.

With two spade tricks assured by the opening lead, declarer could have coasted home in a number of ways with the actual lie of the cards, but the sure-thing line would have been a dummy reversal. When the ace of diamonds, reveals the 4-0 break, declarer simply crosses to dummy with a diamond, ruffs a heart, returns to the table with the jack of clubs and ruffs another heart. Back to dummy with a trump to draw the last outstanding diamond, then the rest of the clubs and the ace of spades bring declarer's trick total to 12 — four trumps, two ruffs in hand, two spades and four clubs.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 25, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: No exact aspects with the Moon in Leo may create a conflicting feeling between your urge to think imaginatively and all those little details of practicality that requires your exacting focus.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A new inspiration fills you that will give you the chance to express your creative ideas and don't let a private matter interfere with carrying through.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A family member has a good idea for making whatever your assets work more to your mutual advantage but don't listen to a friend who pools such ideas.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make some future arrangements with usual allies and for outside advancement but don't take a highly personal bigwig into your confidence.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have a good method now for so handling your work needs so long as you do not go off on some tangent.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your creative ideas are at a new peak today so put in motion whatever arises to advance their success but avoid confrontations over money.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Private discussions between

you and family members bring to light a more constructive arrangement for them and you, don't let a troublemaker say anything.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider what both acquaintances and usual companions can do to give you utmost talent; a boost and then go along with their views despite some doubts on your part.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put into motion a course of action suggested by one in a position of importance even though it means giving up some momentary pleasure you had anticipated.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have some very good ways to expand your present influence and don't allow some negative attitude on the part of a family member to dissuade you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get one who knows what your biggest practical aims are to give you benefit of experience and don't run all around asking advice from everyone.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look for the various means by which to get an outsider to aid you with a friends problem that is difficult for you to solve, avoid more financial commitments.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Forget yourself today in doing whatever duties face you in such a manner that you get the approval of one in a prominent position.

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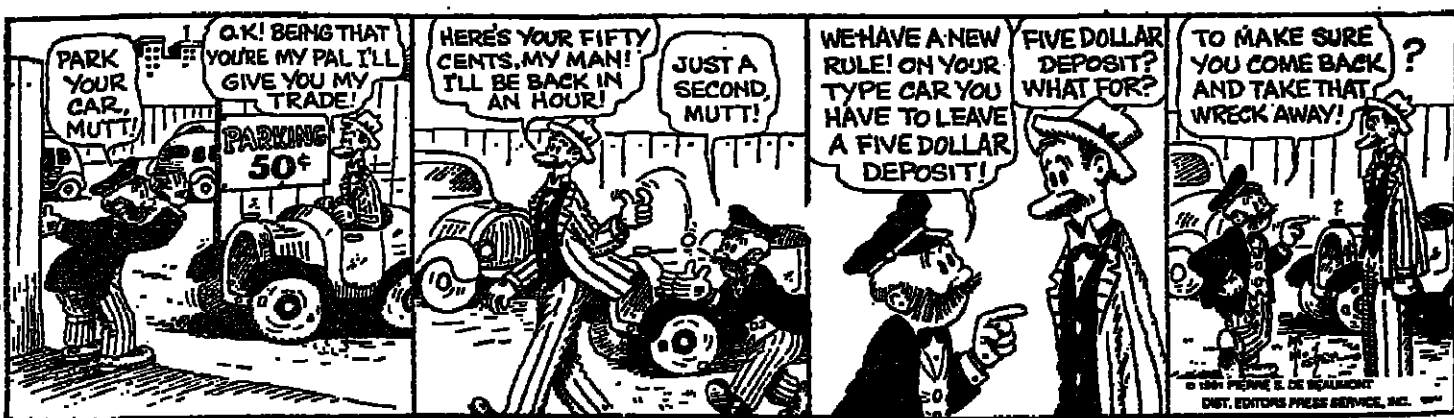
Peanuts



Andy Capp

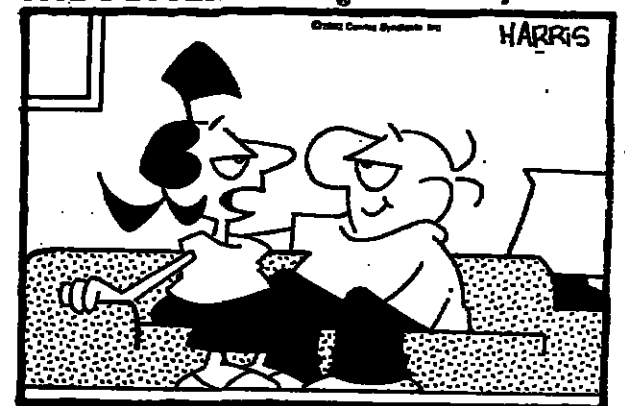


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I don't mind if you call me sweetie or honey...but please stop calling me dude!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NALST

MAFLE

YIPRAC

DEAGAN

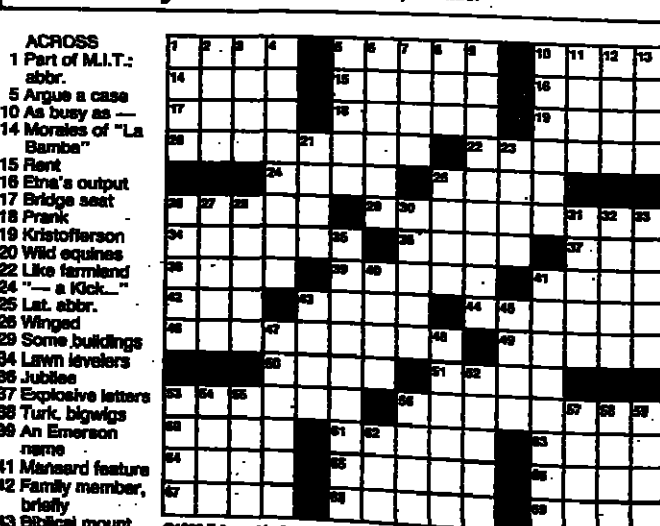
Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWASH GULCH MISLAY NEARBY

Answer: Why the crows were frightened when they saw the scarecrow — "CAWS" (because)

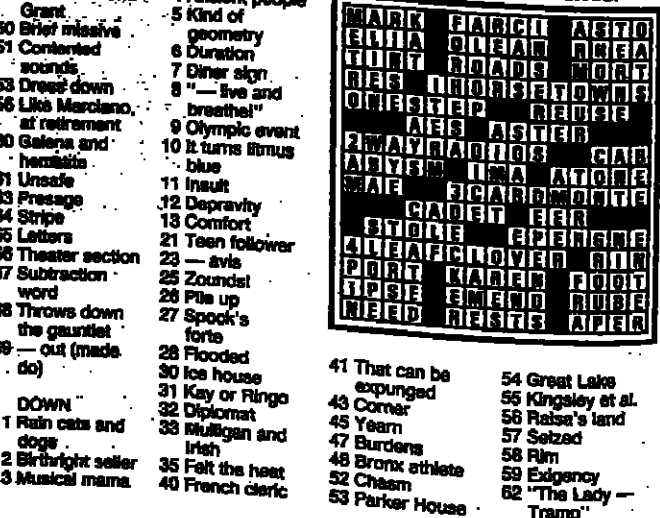
(Answers Monday)

THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller



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Puzzle Solvers:



Economy

Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 24/8/92	TOKYO CLOSE 24/8/92
Sterling Pound	1.9550	1.9687
Deutsche Mark	1.4290	1.4275
Swiss Franc	1.4210	1.4240
French Franc	1.3595	1.3625
Japanese Yen	125.81	125.33
European Currency Unit	1.4210	1.4275

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 UNIT	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.37	3.43	3.57
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.25	10.31	10.37
Deutsche Mark	99.64	9.81	9.81	9.81
Swiss Franc	7.81	7.95	8.00	8.00
French Franc	10.06	10.25	10.31	10.31
Japanese Yen	4.00	3.81	3.82	3.45
European Currency Unit	10.68	10.75	10.75	10.75

Commodity	U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR
Gold	340.35	6.45	Silver	3.76

Currency	Unit	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.605	0.607
Sterling Pound	1.3098	1.3163
Deutsche Mark	0.4682	0.4705
Swiss Franc	0.5259	0.5285
French Franc	0.1379	0.1386
Japanese Yen	0.5906	0.5933
Dutch Guilder	0.4153	0.4174
Swedish Krona	0.1281	0.1287
Italian Lira	0.0615	0.0618
Belgian Franc	0.02273	0.02284

Currency	Unit	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.7380	1.7390
Sterling Pound	0.0265	0.0265
Deutsche Mark	0.1764	0.1788
Swiss Franc	2.2200	2.310
French Franc	0.1802	0.1815
Japanese Yen	0.2000	0.2100
Dutch Guilder	1.6980	1.7140
Swedish Krona	0.1802	0.1815
Italian Lira	0.3650	0.3750
Belgian Franc	1.6000	1.6300

Index	22/8/92	Close	23/8/92	Close
All-Share	142.33		141.61	
Banking Sector	106.04		105.34	
Insurance Sector	148.67		148.52	
Industrial Sector	192.61		191.78	
Services Sector	183.83		183.38	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9715/25	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1901/06	Canadian dollar	
	1.4210/15	Deutsche marks	
	1.5995/005	Dutch Guilders	
	1.2590/600	Swiss francs	
	29.24/28	Belgian francs	
	4.8340/90	French francs	
	1080/1081	Italian lire	
	125.20/25	Japanese yen	
	5.1830/930	Swedish crowns	
	6.6100/200	Norwegian crowns	
	5.4860/960	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$341.30/341.80		

Growth and inflation seen slowing down in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's booming economy has begun to slow down while inflation rates are expected to come down marginally as savings improve, the country's leading private economic think-tank has said.

There will be a relative slowdown in 1992 as the economy begins to moderate after growing rapidly, the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) said in its second revision of the economic outlook for 1992/1993.

Malaysia's economy, fuelled by strong foreign investment, has enjoyed growth of more than eight per cent since 1988.

MIER Executive Director Kamal Salih forecast Malaysia's economic growth slowing to 7.5 per cent in 1992, unchanged from MIER's earlier projection, and down from 8.8 per cent in 1991.

The government has put 1992 growth at 8.5 per cent.

"Inflation is forecast at 5.5 per cent in 1992 but could come down marginally as consumers begin to improve on their savings level," Mr. Kamal said.

Bank Negara has vowed to cap inflation, now at 4.9 per cent, at 4.5 per cent in 1992 by maintaining a tight monetary policy. Inflation was 4.4 per cent last year.

"Inflation cannot be capped overnight. The process takes time and can be achieved through forced savings like hiking up contribution levels to superannuation funds like the employees provident fund (EPF)," Mr. Kamal said.

The government, concerned about falling savings levels, is toying with the idea of im-

plementing forced savings through the EPF, to which workers contribute nine per cent of their income and employers a minimum of 11 per cent.

Another indicator that could lead to a drop in inflation was the decline in private consumption, reflected in car sales.

"The sale of passenger cars dropped 11.27 per cent for the first quarter of 1992 to 24,905 units against 28,068 units for the same period last year," Mr. Kamal said.

"Consumers were cautious in their spending on durable goods although their financial positions generally improved."

He said the slowdown could help Malaysia adjust its future growth because near-nine per cent growth could overstretch the economy, possibly leading to a harder landing in 1993.

Venezuela's Perez cuts spending but pledges better services

CARACAS (R) — President Carlos Andres Perez announced a deficit-cutting austerity plan Sunday but promised that revenue raised by new taxes would improve poor public services which have sparked violent protests.

The government of this oil-exporting nation, facing sharply reduced petroleum revenues, will freeze public-sector wages next year and eliminate 25,000 state jobs.

"We can't commit the sin of leaving Venezuela in the Third World forever," Mr. Perez said in

a televised address to the nation.

"We must join the prosperous nations. Running with this group requires better discipline, better work and productivity, more imagination and a more just and efficient distribution of income."

In an apparent response to public protests over poor services, the president pledged to commit at least 75 per cent of the money raised from a previously announced value-added tax and business asset levy to improve water, health and education systems and to reduce crime.

The pledge comes nearly three months before state and municipal elections and at a time when Mr. Perez still struggles to boost his support and image after a February coup attempt.

The state, which derives about 80 per cent of its revenues from oil sales, was hit this year by lower petroleum prices and a cutback in its production quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

State-run Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) said \$10.5 billion in taxes to the state in 1991, but its contribution is expected to fall to about \$7 billion this year and \$6.5 billion in 1993.

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING PRICE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN KUNAIT BANK	42.505	2.170	2.120	2.140
THE JORDAN BANK	51.235	2.950	2.820	2.930
ARAB BANK INVESTMENT BANK	7.162	2.420	2.350	2.420
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	782	2.190	2.180	2.180
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	440	2.950	2.930	2.930
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	613	3.280	3.280	3.280
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	119.092	1.250	1.250	1.250
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	255.186	1.380	1.350	1.360
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	151.162	1.170	1.100	1.160
BUSINESS BANK	8.610	2.100	2.050	2.050
WEST JORDAN SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	326.775	4.230	4.060	4.350
ARAB BANK	2.300	115.000	115.000	115.000
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	4.051	2.900	2.810	2.900
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	60.819	2.820	2.750	2.760
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1.987	2.350	2.340	2.300
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	1.568	3.420	3.350	3.350
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	6.381	1.300	1.280	1.270
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	25.713	2.300	2.200	2.300
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	8.666	1.280	1.260	1.280
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDORE HOTELS	120.436	1.840	1.810	1.810
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	25	0.250	0.250	0.250
WAGDAH EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	1.897	1.020	0.980	1.000
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	6.089	0.930	0.910	0.910
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	13.483	0.640	0.620	0.620
GENERAL INVESTMENT	3.000	1.500	1.500	1.500
JORDAN KUNAIT CO. FOR AGR. & FOOD PROD.	843	1.150	1.130	1.130
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	16.374	1.450	1.430	1.430
JORDAN DAIRY	10.700	2.370	2.360	2.360
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	42.924	1.350	1.340	1.340
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES	7.635	9.120	9.000	9.000
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	31.705	5.710	5.700	5.690
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	230.929	5.270	5.150	5.230
UNIVERSAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	22.202	3.540	3.510	3.510
THE JORDAN MINERAL WATERS	8.480	8.600	8.500	8.500
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	8.417	4.850	4.720	4.690
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	1.225	0.700	0.700	0.700
JORDAN PROSPERITY MINES	1.611	3.600	3.580	3.580
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	10.640	2.660	2.660	2.660
JORDAN TUBING	453	4.650	4.600	4.600
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	218.280	0.050	0.020	0.060
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	3.135	0.580	0.570	0.570
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	195	3.900	3.900	3.900
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	20.380	12.300	12.000	12.000
ALADON INDUSTRIES	7.988	3.500	3.550	3.550
NAPTA INDUSTRIES	830	3.450	3.320	3.320
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	5.284	1.010	1.020	1.020
SYNDICATE & WEAVING	5.413	2.820	2.820	2.860
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	36.499	5.890	5.850	5.850
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	181.868	3.650	3.610	3.630
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	53.803	2.270	2.260	2.270
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	710	1.500	1.420	1.420
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRIES	27.370	0.500	0.490	0.480
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	62.419	4.700	4.780	4.670
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	87.764	2.120	2.100	2.100
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	4.827	7.910	7.800	7.770
GRAND TOTAL			2,140,396	
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET			14850	
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET			33948	

Central banks fail yet again to revive dollar

LONDON (R) — The dollar failed to respond Monday to repeated new bouts of central bank intervention to arrest its slide against the mark.

The U.S. Federal Reserve and a host of European central banks bought dollars for the second week in a row.

But the concerted action did nothing for the dollar, which in early trading had touched 1.4260 marks and 125.33 yen after finishing in Europe on Friday at 1.4290 and 125.81. By mid-afternoon in Europe, after several rounds of dollar buying, it was being quoted around 1.4075 marks and 124.50 yen.

Dealers saw the dollar headed even lower.

"It's going to be a brutal day," said Matt Robertson, a dealer at Banque Nationale de Paris in New York.

In a lively start to the financial week, gold jumped more than \$5 an ounce and major stock markets took a tumble. Frankfurt closed at a new 1992 low and Wall Street headed down from the opening bell. Paris and London were sharply lower.

The pound sterling had its share of the drama, sinking to its lowest level against the mark since Britain entered the European Community's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) nearly two years ago.

It traded around 2.7995 marks in mid-afternoon after a 2.8025 start and 2.8029 at the close Friday.

Currency analysts thought the central banks' intervention on behalf of the dollar to be badly timed and futile.

"The banks are telling the market that just because they lost on Friday they are not giving up the chase," said David Cocker, currency analyst at Chemical Bank.

"Unfortunately the market isn't listening."

Mr. Cocker thought the central banks were losing on two counts.

"Firstly, they're trying to go against all the fundamentals which call for a lower dollar and secondly they are choosing to intervene when the market is at its most prepared," he said.

European stock markets fared no better than the dollar.

In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares dropped 50 points to 2,315.7 on mounting anxiety that the weak pound would force a rise in British interest rates. "The market is in a state of paralysis," said a senior dealer.

In Frankfurt, the tumbling dollar sent German share prices down to their lowest close since Aug. 19, 1991.

"It's like trying to catch a falling knife that's very sharp on both edges," said Phil Doran at Barclays de Zoete at the 30-share DAX index dropped 1.4 per cent to 1,498.74 points.

"It is all dollar-related," he added. "There is an enormous amount of fear. Even central banks can't stop the dollar fall."

Growing crime hits Bangladesh economy

DHAKA (R) — Rising crime and ineffective laws seriously set back Bangladesh's economy and drive investors away, its top business association warned Monday.

The business community is deeply concerned at deteriorating law and order which is seriously hindering economic activities, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry said in a statement.

The situation was most alarming, it said after a two-day meeting that took stock of crime and business prospects.

A decline in law and order had crippled many businesses, the federation said. In a serious warning to the 17-month-old government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, which is gaining much hope on private investment, it said prospects for new investment — local and foreign — were threatened.

The government has announced a sweeping privatisation plan in a bid to shore up the economy which it said had been pushed virtually to the brink of collapse by nine years of autocratic rule under ousted president Hossein Mohammad Ershad.

The statement said heads of 30 chambers of commerce and other federation leaders were frustrated by what they saw as government indifference towards law and order.

They also criticised opposition political parties for not creating favourable economic conditions — an apparent reference to alleged links between various crime gangs and major parties.

Police said they had arrested more than 15,000 criminals in a countrywide crackdown since Aug. 1 and seized more than 1,000 firearms and quantities of explosives.

Murderers, car thieves, extortionists and kidnappers were among those arrested, an official told reporters. They can be detained for four months before being formally charged and put on trial, police said.

Mrs. Khaleda ordered the crackdown after opposition parties accused her of failing to improve law and order and asked her to step down.

Reports Monday in government-run newspapers belied claims by the interior ministry that crime had shown a definite decline in recent weeks.

The Dainik Bangla newspaper alone reported the following: Thief stabs businessman in Dhaka; one arrested for trying to abduct a seven-year-old girl in Dhaka; six factory workers shot and wounded in northern Pabna; 62 Bangladeshis, including women and children, rescued from kidnappers at northern border; 15 bus passengers robbed.

Russia will not free fuel prices this year

MOSCOW (R) — Russia will not free energy prices this year, Interfax News Agency, quoting Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, reported Monday.

It said Mr. Gaidar, who was attending a meeting with local government officials to discuss economic policy, declined to indicate when the subsidised domestic prices might rise.

"Information about price increases given in advance, particularly for oil, leads to speculation and the disappearance of oil products," the prime minister said.

Russia raised energy prices sharply earlier this year as part of an attempt to propel its centralised economy to the market, but they remain subsidised at levels well below world prices. Exports are limited by a series of quotas and licences.

The International Monetary Fund and other Western organisations have urged Russia to raise prices to world levels as soon as possible.

Western economists say current subsidised energy prices distort the whole economic system and reduce the chances of large-scale investment to rebuild Russia's ailing oil sector.

Oil output is expected to fall to 395 million tonnes (7.9 million barrels per day) this year, from a peak around 570 million tonnes (11.4 million bpd) in 1987 and 1988.

Officials have said future price rises will take place in stages. Bringing domestic prices to world levels in a single jump would put too much strain on Russia's ailing economy.

Russian Energy Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said this month he could not say when energy prices would reach world levels.

"I cannot say when prices will be raised, but no one is going to free them now. It is impossible," he told journalists on Aug. 7.

"Prices will reach world levels, but I do not know when — maybe in 1993, 1994 or 1995."

A government official said recently that Russian oil extraction dropped sharply in the first half of this year and is likely to keep on falling.

Yuri Zlotnikov, a deputy head of department at the fuel and energy ministry, said oil extraction had slipped by 20 million tonnes to around 200 million tonnes in the first six months.

Mr. Zlotnikov said he did not rule out the possibility of tight fuel rationing if extraction fell below 300 million tonnes a year, which he called the bare minimum needed to keep the Russian economy going.

"If the question of investment is not solved, I think that could happen in 1994," he told Reuters.

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Peking, Seoul open diplomatic ties

PEKING (R) — China and South Korea put four decades of hostility behind them Monday and signed a pact opening diplomatic relations, punching through one of the last cold war barriers in Asia.

Chinese Premier Li Peng hailed the new agreement as having great significance for the future development of Asia, while South Korean President Roh Tae-woo said the pact marked a turning point for Seoul.

"This is a very important event in relations between China and Korea and has great significance for peace and development in Asia and the world," Mr. Li told visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Lee Sang-ock.

Mr. Lee earlier signed the diplomatic communiqué with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, before an audience of beaming officials at Peking's Diao-yutai state guest house.

He later met Mr. Li and Chinese President Yang Shangkun, who formally invited Mr. Roh to visit Peking soon.

The agreement, which followed years of manoeuvring between two old foes from the 1950-53 Korean War, further

sidelined two of Asia's ideological misfits: Nationalist Taiwan and Stalinist North Korea.

North Korea, which had counted China as its last major ally after the collapse of the Soviet Union, did not mention South Korea's diplomatic triumph in its official press Monday.

Taiwan lowered its flag over its ornate embassy in central Seoul for the last time, with Ambassador Charles King vowing that communism would one day crumble.

"Communism will not last. Soon we will fly this flag again," he told the crowd as Taipei gave up its last formal diplomatic ally in Asia.

Mr. Lee arrived in Peking Sunday to lay the final plank in Roh Tae-woo's "norpolitik" policy of rapprochement with South Korea's former ideological foe in hopes of improving relations with the Communist North.

China has long been a major political and economic backer of North Korea's 80-year-old President Kim Il-Sung, who rules over the world's last hardline Stalinist state.

"The normalisation of ties be-

tween our two countries marks a significant turning point in world history in that it heralds the beginning of the end of the cold war in east Asia," Mr. Roh said in a televised speech in Seoul.

He said the links with Peking removed the last external constraint on a peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.

"I firmly believe that the normalisation of relations between (South) Korea and China will greatly contribute to the resolution of various pending issues between South and North Korea as well as to the stability and peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula," Mr. Roh said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin said China's new relationship with South Korea would promote cooperation between two countries of growing economic power. Trade between the two is already booming, reaching about \$5.8 billion in 1991 against \$3.8 billion in 1990.

He emphasised that the two countries should look to the future, and said Peking had no intention of changing its current good relationship with North Korea.

"The talks were to establish diplomatic relations not to review history," he told a news conference after the signing ceremony. "China will continue to develop good-neighbourly, friendly and cooperative relations with the DPRK (North Korea)," he said.

Taiwan was offered no such consolation as it faced its worst diplomatic defeat since Washington switched ties to Peking in 1979.

South Korea, Nationalist Taipei's only remaining ally in Asia, Monday explicitly recognised Peking as the sole government of all China including Taiwan.

Japan said the establishment Monday of diplomatic relations between China and South Korea would promote peace and stability in the region.

"We hope that South Korea and China will henceforth expand exchanges in politics, economics and a broad range of areas," Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said in a statement.

"I hope that this will contribute to peace and stability, not only between the two countries, but also in East Asia."

Brazil congressional report sees organised corruption

BRASILIA (R) — A draft report on corruption in Brazilian President Fernando Collor De Mello's government Monday said an organised operation was set up to sell favours and rake off commissions from state contracts.

The report's author Senator Amir Lando began reading his conclusions before a packed session in a Senate committee room under tight security.

"The evidence suggests the malicious setting-up of a deliberate operation intended to make space in the area of the running of public affairs for agents not connected with the government to

confer illicit and illegal benefits and advantages," the report's introduction said.

Sen. Lando said friends and collaborators of Mr. Collor had organised themselves to use the government for their own ends but he did not mention the president by name in the introduction.

The report is the fruit of nearly three months of hearings into allegations that Mr. Collor's election campaign treasurer Paulo Cesar Farias ran a huge corruption racket.

Opposition politicians had said they will use the report as a basis for a formal request to congress

for Mr. Collor's impeachment government supporters hope to shelve the document.

Sen. Lando began his report with a quotation from the Gospel of St. John: "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

After his introduction he moved to an explanation of the committee's functions noting it did not have the power to propose punishments, only to uncover the facts.

Newspapers say a portion of the report will mention Mr. Collor's involvement with the scheme.

20,000 refugees flood into Liberian capital

MONROVIA (R) — Fighting between rival militias in north-west Liberia has driven more than 20,000 refugees into the already overcrowded capital.

The United Nations, Red Cross and West African Peacekeeping Force (ECOMOG) have been ferrying thousands of people across the Po River and lodging them in schools and hospitals.

Refugees from Bomi Hills and Cape Mount have been heading south since the Ulimo militia last week seized the key town of Tubmanburg, 60 kilometres north of Monrovia, from Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

The capture of Tubmanburg is Ulimo's most significant victory since it began its incursion from Sierra Leone in Sept. 1991.

Ulimo (United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia), made up of members of slain President Samuel Doe's former army, also claims to have captured the small seaport of Robertsport from the NPFL.

Travellers say whole families are on the road and the highways leading to Monrovia are lined with bodies of those caught in the crossfire or dead of starvation. Many refugees have been walking for three weeks.

The NPFL has claimed that up to 2,000 civilians were killed in the latest clashes, a figure that could not be verified.

The refugees include both native Liberians and Sierra Leoneans fleeing fighting in the border region between the Sierra Leone army and dissident forces supported by the NPFL.

President Amos Sawyer, who heads the interim government in Monrovia, has appealed to the public to take the refugees into their own homes.

A deadline set by the Economic Community of West African States for the rival factions to disarm expires on Aug. 29.

The foreign ministers of Ivory Coast, Senegal, and Benin were due to fly to the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown Monday for talks with Ulimo Chairman Raleigh Sekie.

Talks hosted by ECOWAS collapsed in Benin last week when Ulimo failed to turn up.

Hurricane Andrew roars across south Florida

MIAMI (R) — Hurricane Andrew roared across south Florida with winds up to 165 miles (265 km) an hour Monday, forcing a million people to flee from what could be the biggest storm to hit the United States this century.

Andrew blew off roofs, shattered windows, uprooted trees and lashed multi-million dollar beach front homes and high-rise apartments. In Art-Deco Miami Beach, department store mannequins flew through the air and sand buried ocean-front boulevards.

Police said there were no immediate reports of death or injuries.

The most powerful part of the hurricane passed directly over the National Hurricane Centre in Coral Gables, a Miami suburb, blowing a radar disc off the roof and shaking the building.

More than 50,000 people jammed shelters and at least 400,000 were without power, emergency officials said. Phone service was sporadic.

Thousands fled inland while others huddled inside their shuttered homes trying to ride out the storm.

One weather forecaster said Andrew could easily end up being one of the costliest hurricanes in the history of the United States. He added that the storm was due to hit the northern gulf coast between northern Texas and Mississippi Tuesday night or Wednesday.

At 6 a.m. (1000 GMT) Monday the centre of the storm was over the Florida Everglades, 25 miles (40 km) southwest of Miami, nearly halfway across the Florida peninsula.

It was moving due west at 15 miles (25 km) an hour with sustained winds of 140 miles (225 km) an hour and gusts up to 165 miles (265 km) an hour.

In the Bahamas, outer islands suffered damage, at least one person died and several dozen homes were destroyed.

The storm moved due west from the Bahamas without losing any power.

Transformers crackled and palm trees were stripped of leaves as the hurricane made a direct hit on the Miami area shortly before dawn.

Miami emergency officials received frantic cellular phone calls from people huddled in their bathrooms trying to avoid flying glass. Several reported entire roofs had been blown off by the wind.

"This is fairly close to a worst-case scenario," Dade County Manager Joaquin Avino said as he ordered a half-million people to flee.

In Pompano Beach, a woman who gave birth just as the storm rolled in named her baby Stephanie Andrew.

Forecasters said Andrew threatened to be the worst storm to hit Florida since 1965, when hurricane Betsy blasted through the state, killing 75 and causing \$6 billion in damage.

Andrew is as powerful as the lethal hurricane Hugo that devastated the Caribbean and the south-east United States in 1989. Hugo killed at least 26 people in Charleston, South Carolina alone and caused about \$10 billion in damage.

Florida governor Lawton Chiles declared a state of emergency and ordered mandatory evacuations. He placed three National Guard battalions on call, and the Air National Guard was helping to evacuate hospital patients from Key West.

Authorities had no exact figures on how many people obeyed the evacuation order.

In the Bahamas, power lines were downed, blacking out much of the capital city of Nassau, which has not suffered a severe hurricane in 60 years. The small island of Eleuthera, where 36 homes were demolished, recorded winds of more than 120 miles (190 km) an hour, weather forecasters said.

Royals lurch from Fergie crisis to Diana's woes

LONDON (R) — Britain's royal family faced a new crisis Monday when an intimate taped conversation allegedly between Princess Diana and a male admirer pushed the topos frolics of the Duchess of York off the front pages.

The woman in the 20-minute conversation, identified only as "Squidgy," complains that her husband "makes my life real torture." The couple blow each other kisses and the man repeatedly tells the woman he loves her.

Buckingham Palace rejected the authenticity of the tape, saying it was "not a story we can take seriously."

But the tabloids nevertheless went to town on the "new royal sensation," stoking anew the furore that has enveloped the monarchy since the publication of photos showing the duchess kissing and cuddling bawling Texan businessman John Bryan.

The duchess, known as Fergie, returned to her rented home near London Sunday leaving her husband Prince Andrew and the rest of the royals to holiday at Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

Most commentators saw Fergie's departure from Balmoral as her exit from royal life after the ignominy of finding herself with her head superimposed on a model's body — on the best-selling Sun's notorious page three topos slot.

But the alleged taped conversation involving Princess Diana was potentially far more damaging for the future of the monarchy.

It follows sensational reports earlier this year that the 11-year marriage of the future queen and Prince Charles was a loveless sham that had driven Princess Diana to five suicide attempts.

The best-selling Sun devoted five pages to a transcript of the Diana "love call," although the newspaper acknowledged it could not confirm the woman was the 31-year-old princess.

It promised readers a hotline telephone number on which they could hear the tape, apparently made on New Year's Eve 1989, and make up their minds for themselves.

The recording was said to have been picked up on a communications scanner from mobile telephones.

The woman talks of her loneliness and unhappiness and arranges an assignation with her affectionate caller. She also refers to chats with Fergie and breaks off to talk to someone called Harry — the name of Princess Diana's son.

Malaysia continues search for 11 missing from sunken liner

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia resumed an air and sea search Monday for 11 people missing after their luxury liner collided with a fishing boat and sank in the Straits of Malacca.

"A Cessna aircraft took off from Port Dickson (in the southern state of Negri Sembilan) early this morning but no survivors have been found yet," an official of the Marine Department's Search and Rescue Unit said by telephone.

The 13,000-tonne Bahamas-registered Royal Pacific, carrying 335 passengers and 179 crew, sank about an hour after it

was rammed by the Taiwanese fishing boat Terfu 51 at 3 a.m. Sunday in the Malacca Straits, about 20 miles from shore.

Two people have been confirmed dead. The official said one had been identified as Singaporean Lau Chan Ghit.

"The calm weather helped a lot. That was God-given," said one of the survivors, a Singaporean banker.

Malaysian officials said 510 people had been rescued by Bahamas-registered dry cargo vessel Marisa and the Russian-owned container ship Chapaevsk and taken to Singapore.



A Serbian fighter runs to try and help comrades wounded during fighting in Bosnia

Shells slam Sarajevo after lull

SARAJEVO (R) — Shells crashed around the Holiday Inn Hotel in central Sarajevo early Monday, shattering a brief lull in the fighting that has intensified prior to a crucial peace conference in London.

After four days and nights of bitter artillery duels and street fighting, rival Serb and Muslim forces gave its residents a brief respite on Sunday evening.

Their guns were mostly silent from early evening until about dawn, when a number of mortar bombs struck near the Holiday Inn.

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported that 1,700 artillery shells fell on Serb-held positions in the last 24 hours, killing some 20 soldiers and civilians, including women and children.

It reported fierce fighting also at Mostar, a Croat-held town south of Sarajevo.

Fighting throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina intensified at the weekend as rival forces fought for territorial advantage in the run-up to Yugoslav peace talks opening in London this week.

The U.N. General Assembly is expected to hear an outpouring of support for Bosnia when it reconvenes Monday to debate the crisis in the embattled republic at the initiative of the U.N.'s Islamic members.

It will be the first time the entire 179-strong membership of the world body has an opportunity to take a stand on Bosnia.

Mortars killed 14 people and wounded 20 in the old city in the space of six hours Sunday and two foreign students died when a shell smashed into their dormitory on the edge of the city.

Weeping as he recalled the dormitory attack, Syrian student Mowaffaq Soufi said: "We got up to leave the room for a safer place but there was an explosion before we could get out."

"A girl died here on these

stairs and one of my friends in the room had no arms or legs... even his head was missing."

The United Nations had to close the airport — delivery point for relief supplies for 380,000 trapped residents — for much of Sunday because of mortar and artillery crossfire.

One British Royal Engineer serving with the United Nations was wounded by mortar fire on the airport road, the third member of his regiment to be hurt in two days.

The Bosnian Serbs' news agency (SRNA) said Serb positions in 10 Sarajevo suburbs had been severely bombed and accused the Muslims of trying to provoke a Serb attack on U.N. headquarters by deploying an artillery battery nearby.

Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic told reporters an attempt by the Serbs to launch an all-out attack had failed.

As the temperature rose on the battleground, diplomatic manoeuvres in advance of the London talks also intensified.

Mr. Izetbegovic appealed to the West to provide air cover to help repel Serb forces who have overrun 70 per cent of his republic since it declared independence in March.

"We don't ask for troops, we ask for air cover," he said. "We have enough boys who are willing to fight. (With enough arms), we would finish off the Chetniks (Serbs) in a month."

Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic said as he left for London Sunday that the Serbian policy of "ethnic cleansing" — killing or driving out Muslims and Croats in Serb-held territory — would cease.

Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic said he was sending a letter to republics that have broken away from the old Yugoslav Federation — Macedonia, Croatia and Slovenia — proposing talks

on establishing interstate relations.

Besides Bosnia, the London talks are expected to discuss other potential flashpoints in the region, including Serbia's Albanian-majority province of Kosovo and Macedonia, whose independence is yet to receive EC recognition because of Greek objections to its name.

More than 8,000 people are known to have been killed and almost two million displaced in four months of conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims and Croats are fighting Serb forces opposed to the republic's independence from Yugoslavia.

The real toll is believed to be much higher.

Meanwhile NATO allies will discuss scaled-down plans for using troops to protect relief convoys in former Yugoslavia at a special meeting Tuesday and may decide that the United Nations should be left to run the operation.

NATO sources told Reuters that military authorities submitted a complete list of contingencies from the 16-member nations will discuss at a meeting Tuesday.

A NATO spokesman confirmed there would be a meeting Tuesday, the day before a major international peace conference on Yugoslavia starts in London, but declined further comment.

Sources said there was growing agreement that NATO should not organise the operation, but that it should be left to the United Nations — which already has peacekeeping forces and a relief effort in former Yugoslavia.

"We don't want to jeopardise the existing U.N. operations and we feel that it has a better image than if NATO were to do it," said one source. "The meeting tomorrow may agree on that, and perhaps we will choose one of the options. We'll see."

Tajikistan procurator-general shot dead

MOSCOW (R) — Tajikistan's top judicial official was shot dead in front of his wife in the former Soviet republic's capital Dushanbe early Monday, a government spokesman said.

He said the attack, which could stir further violence in a country already threatened by turmoil, occurred as Procurator-General Nurullo Khuvaidulloyev accompanied his wife to work in his government car. He had received many death threats.

"After she left the car, the gunmen ran up and ordered Mr. Khuvaidulloyev and his driver to get out and stand on the street," the spokesman said.

The procurator and his driver were then shot at point-blank range and killed outright. The men then ran off," he added. "A search is under way for the killers."

He said no further details of the attack were available but he accused Tajikistan's "opposition" of being behind the action.

The opposition to conservative ex-Communist leader Rakhmon Nabiyev is a divided force consisting of reform Communists, anti-Communists and Islamic activists. Mr. Nabiyev narrowly avoided being overthrown in May when demonstrations erupted into street fighting between government forces and opposition gunmen.

The president held on to power by forming a frail ruling coalition incorporating elements of the opposition.

The country is riven by ethnic and political conflict. Cultural ties to ethnic Tajiks in neighbouring Afghanistan could put its unity in question.

Russian-controlled border

troops are struggling to stop an arms and drugs trade across the border with Afghanistan.

Armed groups of gunmen and drug smugglers, sometimes using rafts to cross rivers or even cranes to surmount border fences, steal into the country daily.

Gunbattles have become commonplace, stirring bitter discontent among Russian border troops who have limited rights to return fire.

The political conflict, fuelled by the flourishing gun trade, is spilling over into the interior of Tajikistan.

Newspapers said last week that at least 19 people were killed when open warfare broke out between two sections of a state farm in the Kurgan-Tyube district — one backing Mr. Nabiyev and the other the opposition.